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Macao man rescues 'horse head' from auction

By Jiang Xubo

Another of Yuanmingyuan's 12 zodiac animals will be returning to the Chinese mainland thanks to a record 66.7 million yuan donation by Macao billionaire Stanley Ho.

The payment halts the controversial auction of the bronze head, which will be donated to the mainland, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) announced yesterday.

SACH will arrange a ceremony and put the head on public display to honor Ho's patriotic deed, Song Xinchao, a

spokesman for SACH, said.

Earlier this month, Sotheby's announced it would auction the horse head in Hong Kong on October 9 to protests from the Chinese mainland.

Shortly after the notice, SACH contacted Sotheby's to voice its protest against the auction, saying that the sculpture is a looted work and appealing for its recovery.

Ho decided to fund the recovery after the statement's release, and eventually reached an agreement with the owner after Sotheby's intervention.

The horse head was billed as the highlight of a four-day auction starting October 9 in Hong Kong. Early estimates expected it to fetch as much as 60 million yuan.

China's Lost Cultural Relics Recovery Program (RRP) felt encouraged by and grateful for Ho's patriotic act, a spokesman for the group said. The RRP previously purchased the boar head in 2003 thanks to another six million yuan donation from Ho.

The group continues to appeal for non-profit, patriotic efforts to recover

more lost relics.

The horse head is one of 12 zodiac animals from a water-clock fountain in Yuanmingyuan, a ruined imperial garden. In 2003, Ho privately bought the clock's boar-head and donated it to Beijing's Poly Museum, an arm of the People's Liberation Army. The Poly Museum also holds the monkey and ox heads.

The rabbit and the rat remain in a private European collection, while the whereabouts of the other zodiac heads are unknown.



Master presents humanity

Choreographer Pina Bausch and her Wuppertal Dance Theater are presenting their first performance on the Chinese mainland. Bausch describes her work as encompassing the wishes, hopes, desires, fears and love that make up the human experience.

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Photo by Ye Jin

Smoking banned in taxis from October

By He Jianwei

Taxi drivers and passengers are forbidden to light up starting this October. The details regarding punishment and fines will be released Sunday during an anti-smoking campaign lunch called "Green Taxi."

The campaign is a part of the "smoke-free Olympics" push, a Beijing Center for Diseases Control and Prevention spokesman said.

This August, the Beijing Municipal Transportation Administration Bureau issued a notice banning drivers from smoking in their taxis. According to the notice, passengers may photograph smoking drivers with their cell phones and report the culprit to the bureau. After verification, offending drivers will be fined 100 to 200 yuan.

A driver from the Beijing Yin Hai Taxi Company says that he does not smoke in his cab or allow others to smoke, although he enjoys smoking. "I stop the car and ask my fare to smoke outside. Then I'll continue driving after the passenger finishes," he told the *Beijing News*.

According to a draft regulation on the tobacco-free Games issued by the municipal government, smoking will be prohibited in eight Olympics-related areas and venues, inside hotels, restaurants, public transportation and near the Olympic Village.

Beijing's Olympic Games will be the first Games since the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control came into effect, so a tobacco-free Games is a top priority in China's Olympic preparations.

Stepped up efforts to ensure food security

By Huang Daohen

The Chinese government pledged Tuesday to step up enforcement efforts against shoddy and fake food products. A nationwide grocery tracking system will be set up, and a crack-down on unlicensed food vendors has been launched.

"All food markets and supermarkets in cities above county level will have a tracking system in place by year's end, requiring invoices and documents to be attached to goods," Zhou Bohua, director of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce,

told a press conference at the State Council Information Office on Tuesday.

All groceries at the township, street-side and community level are required to keep real-time business records, Zhou said, adding that the move will make it easy for inspectors to trace the origin of food products.

Food producers and sellers will be under increased scrutiny with quality threshold and operating licenses, Zhou said. Those operating without a license will be shut down immediately, he added.

Zhou said as many as 187,000

food and product safety inspectors inspected 372,000 businesses and 17,332 markets.

In the first seven months of the year, inspectors shut down over 9,000 unlicensed business operations and found nearly 227 million yuan worth of fake, dangerous or shoddy products since June last year. Referring to the first of the H5N1 bird flu confirmed in Guangzhou's Panyu District, the minister said it has been brought under control and poultry on the current market is safe.

"All areas with bird flu outbreaks have ceased live trading,

and wet markets and live animal markets have been shut down," Zhou said.

Zhou's department is responsible for ensuring that animal products from contaminated areas do not spread throughout market. "Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and other big cities have already abandoned wet markets and begun conducting regulated slaughter, transportation and sale of poultry," Zhou said.

The Ministry of Agriculture will send 12 teams to provincial localities to supervise the prevention and control of bird flu.

Beijing Music Festival raises curtain

By Jackie Zhang

Starting today, the city will be immersed in music as the tenth Beijing Music Festival (BMF) raises its curtain at the Poly Theater.

Conductor Daniel Barenboim will take up the baton of Staatskapelle Berlin (German State Opera) to open the festival, and Chinese pianist Lang Lang will play ten concertos during the more-than-a-month-long festival to celebrate its ten-year anniversary.

BMF has been a yearly autumn highlight since 1998. Every year, a variety of international musicians and orchestras come and perform.

For the tenth year, BMF invited Lang Lang, one of today's most popular young pianists both in China and abroad, to play Beethoven's, Brahms's, Rachmaninoff's, Chopin's, Mozart's, Haydn's and Tchaikovsky's concertos in cooperation with five world-leading orchestras and six established conductors.

"Sometimes, a pianist will be nervous and cannot sleep if he is going to play a concerto the next day. But this time, Lang Lang will play ten piano concertos for the festival. It is both a physiological and psychological challenge for him," Yu Long, chairman of Beijing Music Festival Arts Foundation, said.

"It is a gift for Beijing and also for BMF. Besides, Guo Wenjing's opera China Premiere of Poet Li Bai is also a highlight," Yu said.

Daniel Barenboim, music director of Staatskapelle Berlin, is a well-known pianist and conductor.

His participation in the festival this year is another highlight. Barenboim said that this was his first formal visit to China, a country he said he has been curious about for many years.

"It is the first time that Staatskapelle Berlin has come to China, but I have cooperated with Lang Lang many times in the past six years, so we won't feel lonely," he said.

Time to fold for investor



Jim Rogers (middle) and Zhang Yanping (right), president of Beijing Youth Daily, made dumplings for the coming Mid-Autumn Festival yesterday. Rogers is paying a visit in Beijing for the 2007 Beijing Financing Expos which opened today. He will participate in a series of forums on the topic of China's capital market with local organizations and investors.

Photo by Brave Lou

Chemist sentenced for homebrew drugs

By Jiang Xubo

An amateur chemist was sentenced to four years in prison this week by the Dongcheng District People's Court of Beijing Municipality on Tuesday for producing and selling homemade drugs with a self-designed formula.

Jia Qin, 22, and Jin Xin, his accomplice sentenced to one year, produced 70 grams of "K" powder, or ketamine, between September and November last year.

They sold as much as half of it to drug addicts via advertisements posted on several online forums. The two made some 2,000 yuan from their business.

Jia was caught by local police late last November when selling 30 grams near Coco Banana, a Chaoyang District club.

A former intern at the Peking Union Medical College Hospital laboratory, Jia confessed that he drawn his inspiration from a TV report on drug smuggling when he was 17. He realized that since the drug was on the country's list of controlled substances, it could fetch a high price.

After two years of work, he prepared a ketamine formula thanks to online information and chemistry books from the Capital Library.

Jia confessed that he had to search chemist stores across the capital for the ingredients, which turned out to be the most difficult part of the job due to strict control of drug-related ingredients.

He cooked up the powder in his family's rarely-used kitchen. It

never occurred to the other family members that Jia was cooking his own drugs, though his father said he noticed more and more bottles and cans piling up in the kitchen.

Jia, viewed as a chemistry genius by some media, said he made the drugs just to satisfy his curiosity. When asked why he didn't apply his talents to a "decent" job, Jia said no one was interested in hiring him.

"I made many phone calls, but never got an opportunity. It's probably because I only have three years of college and no Bachelor's degree," Jia was quoted as saying in a *Beijing Times* report.

Ketamine, originally used as an animal tranquilizer, is a widely-used recreational drug in some circles.

Extra child may stain parents' credit

By Huang Daohen

Urban citizens who violate the one-child family planning policy will get a black mark on their credit records and be fined accordingly, the nation's population watch dog said.

The National Population and Family Planning Commission launched the tougher new scheme after mounting public concern that wealthy families violate the policy since the fines are too low to be a deterrent, Xinhua reported.

Rising incomes in recent years mean many people can afford to break the rules and pay the fines. Local authorities at the provincial level have tried to crack down on the trend by raising fines, but with poor results.

"In the future, city residents' family planning violations will be entered in the credit system of the People's Bank of China," the commission announced last Tuesday. Officials are hoping a black mark on their credit record will be a more effective deterrent than simply paying fines.

Members of the Communist Party, officials and public figures are asked to take the lead in following China's family-planning policy, the commission said. Those who severely violate the policy will be exposed and punished in accordance with the law.

Additional measures will be implemented in other provinces as well. Zhejiang Province has announced plans to publicly name families who ignore the one-child policy. Thus far, no details of the level of fines have been published by the commission. It is also not immediately clear whether the action might affect a person's ability to conduct financial transactions.

China's policy, now in its 28th year, limits most urban couples to one child and allows some families in the countryside to have a second child if their first is a girl.

City enacts first 'No Car Day'

By Han Manman

Beijing will participate in a nation-wide campaign to reduce exhaust emissions and prohibit private cars from operating in certain areas of the city with tomorrow's "No Car Day."

In special areas of Beijing from Tianqiao to Zhushikou and Wangfujing to Badiancao, only pedestrians, bicycles, taxis and buses will be allowed on the road from 7am to 7pm.

In addition, the government asks local residents to refrain from driving on September 22 and take public transportation, bicycle or foot.

Beijing's environmental watchdog will monitor the city's traffic and environmental index during the four-day campaign to evaluate its effect.

The act comes from China's plans to ban cars from the streets in 108 cities in its first "No Car Day," part of an effort to promote environmental protection and ease congestion in the world's second-largest auto market.

Students hang by steel thread, yearn for bridge

By Jiang Xubo

For Yu Yanqia, a six-year-old first grader, going to school every morning is a life and death situation.

Yu and 900 other students must attach themselves to a steel cable and slide 200 meters across a canyon on the Nu River, whose bed is home to raging rapids.

A nation-wide fund-raising campaign began late last month to build a steel bridge for the students in Maji Township in the Nujiang Lisu Ethnic Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, who take turns crossing the cable every morning.

Yu, one of the youngest among the students, carries a three-kilogram harness and pulley along with her schoolbag to cross on her own. She crosses hand over hand for 60 meters, and usually takes a rest two-thirds of the way across because her strength is limited.

The eight pairs of steel cables are the main artery of traffic for 9,300 people in the village who learn to cross from the age of four. Still, the cables are not accident proof.

"I used to dream of having a bridge here, but then I learned my dream was too expensive,"

Apu, a fifth-grade pupil, wrote in one of her essays. She was once stranded in the middle of the cable for 20 minutes when she was five years old.

A simple bridge with a steel frame and wooden deck may cost 400,000 yuan. On average, people in the village earn as little as 600 yuan per year, Apuzao, the Maji village director, said.

A nationwide campaign was launched to raise funds for a bridge after the students got media exposure, which began with series of reports on Jiangsu Satellite TV station's 1860 News

Focus, a program featuring human interest stories.

TV stations in more than a dozen cities across the country joined the team soon after, including Hangzhou, Xi'an, Changchun, Wuhan and Shijiazhuang, in addition to newspapers and websites.

As of Wednesday, the campaign has raised as much as 10,000 yuan, and a steel suspension bridge may be built five meters away from one of the schools.

For public donations or more information, call Jiangsu TV at 025-8319 5110.

Folk art secrets passed to French apprentice

By Jiang Xubo

A self-made face-changing master in Hunan Province recently accepted a French apprentice, sparking fears that the closely-guarded secrets of Sichuan Opera may be leaked abroad.

Zeng Jingui, 70, a retired performer from a local Hunan Opera Troupe in Changsha, enrolled a 25-year-old French magician identified only as Melanie as his apprentice. The woman flew to the city in early July with a Chinese interpreter seeking a chance to learn face-changing, the opera's most secret art.

"She fell on her knees as soon as she entered my home, crying, and asked me to teach her. I didn't know what to do, but agreed to consider her request," Zeng said.

Zeng said he found the secret of face-changing and mastered it in 2004. He received his first call from Melanie in 2005. He refused to teach her and suggested she go to Sichuan, where the skill originates.

"An apprentice must be of good character and be willing to keep the skills a secret. One should also be artistic," Zeng explained. "I didn't know her well enough."

Yet, Melanie finally received his approval a week later after passing an audition where she sang, danced and performed magic tricks.

"She is very nice and artistic, but I could only teach her the basic skill. After all, she is a foreigner," Zeng said. "I also demanded a written promise to preserve the secret." Zeng declined to give any more detailed information about the woman.

The promise did little to satisfy people's concern over the secret's safety.

"What Zeng did was absolutely improper," Peng Denghuai, a renowned face-changing master in Chengdu, said. "Face-changing may not be a national secret, but it's surely a trade secret. We have to be extremely prudent with whom we choose to share it - especially when it comes to foreigners."

Peng insisted that Sichuan Opera is the source of the best face-changing performances.

Tennis princess bids farewell to China Open



Hingis lost the game before making it to the quarterfinals, Wednesday. CFP Photo

By Jiang Xubo

Switzerland's Martina Hingis, the smiling tennis princess, suffered a premature end to her China Open dream when local hopeful Peng Shuai bundled the fifth seed out 7-5, 6-1 on Wednesday in their game for a position in the quarter-final stage.

Hingis, debuting in the tournament this year, lost in 59 minutes. The former world number one did not earn a breakpoint and lost her own serve on three successive occasions from the final game of the opening set.

However, it seemed the defeat did not spoil Hingis's trip outside the court.

"I am planning to see at least the Great Wall tomorrow. That's my priority," Hingis said. "So when I get back home, I can say 'See, I stood on the Great Wall of China.'"

Though she took no trophy, Hingis did get something to show off back home - a qipao, or cheongsam, she won at the player's party, offered by the Beijing Ruifu Xiang Silk Fabric Store.

"We got all the dresses from the world's most famous silk shop in Beijing, founded in 1893. I felt great. Not everybody gets a dress like that. It's like a lucky dress," she said.

The princess was obviously quite satisfied with her first experience in China, except for the games.

"The court here is good. I had everything I wanted from start to end: bodyguards, luxuries, a hotel and hospitality," she said.

Hingis was not the only one to leave. Defending champion and top seed Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia pulled out of the tournament on Wednesday due to an abdominal injury.

American Lindsay Davenport continued her successful comeback and reached the quarterfinals yesterday.

Third seed Mauresmo of France returned from a long layoff to post a storming 6-2, 6-2 defeat of Pole Raluca Olaru and reached the quarterfinals in an event for the first time since June.

Maria Emilia Salerni of Argentina, who replaced Kuznetsova, went on to the quarterfinals with a victory over American Abigail Spears Wednesday.

Hidden dangers of raising reptiles

By Jackie Zhang

Reptiles as pets is not that strange nowadays. More and more people, referred to as *payout*, are keeping snakes, spiders, lizards and turtles instead of cats and dogs. Some have started to buy reptiles over the Internet, which may have hidden dangers for China's environment.

Zhang Yiyue raised an American green iguana at home, which has grown to 1.3 meters long. "I used to have more, but the environment in my house wasn't good for them. I sent them to the Beijing Zoo," he said. "Super mister," a netizen, has three boas in his home.

Local pet markets in Guanyuan, Xicheng District, Shilihe, Chaoyang District, and Yuquan Road, Haidian District, are the most popular hang-outs for local payout. Scorpions, centipedes and lizards can be easily found in these markets, but large animals like boas are rarely sold.

"Boas are a protected species - it's illegal to buy or sell them. People have to get them online or trade in secret," Xiaoyang, another payout, said.

The Internet has turned into the main communication line for reptile lovers. There are many forums where people can buy and sell pets, and some even order reptiles from overseas with credit cards.

"Some of the boas and American green iguana are listed in the Conventions on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora," Zeng Yan, director assistant from Endangered Species Scientific Commission of China, said. "These animals enter China mostly through smuggling."

"The most important thing is that these foreign animals may threaten China's environment," Zhao Ermi, reptile expert from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said.

"Some valuable species are sent abroad, and some foreign animals with unknown origins enter China. If some of them have a reproductive advantage in their new habitat, they could overwhelm native species," he said.

Brief news

New outbreak of bird flu

The National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory confirmed a new outbreak of a sub-type of the H5N1 bird flu in Guangzhou earlier this month. The outbreak killed 9,830 ducks, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said this week.

Higher inflation rate

The country's inflation rate is expected to hit 4.2 percent, higher than the previous 1.8 percent, according to a report issued this week by the Asian Development Bank.

Loan for rural health projects

China Development Bank, one of the country's three policy banks, will issue loans for as much as 5 billion yuan to fund health care projects in rural areas this year, Chen Yuan, governor of the policy bank, said Wednesday.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Four banks apply to set up aircraft leasing enterprise

By Chu Meng

Four banks are applying to establish aircraft leasing companies in order to get in on the ground level of a booming domestic aircraft leasing industry.

The Bank of Communications, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the China Minsheng Banking Corp., Ltd and the China Merchants Bank are expected to have their applications approved shortly, according to a statement released earlier this week from some high-profile airlines officials. Minsheng Bank is prepared to invest 3.2 billion yuan, while the other three plan on spending two billion.

In the past ten years, the domestic business scale of aircraft leasing has doubled, with foreign leasing companies dominating the market. Currently, foreign companies occupy 90 percent of the market. The official said that there

were great possibilities that the Chinese government would approve the application under such conditions in order to enlarge the market shares of domestic aircraft leasing companies, thus altering China's trade imbalance.

Airbus and Boeing predict that China will increase its aircraft numbers over the next 20 years by close to 3,000 airplanes, worth approximately US\$300 billion. According to the convention, 30 percent of China's aircraft leasing business will be done through financial leasing. The future expansion of China's aircraft numbers will generate a financial leasing market of more than US\$80 billion, or about 600 billion yuan.

The official revealed that there were few domestic leasing companies serving the aircraft business. The main reason being the amount of tax domestic leasing companies are forced to pay. Tax



Airbus's models of A380 are shown in the Beijing International Aircrafts Exhibition opened in Beijing this Wednesday. Many foreign airlines and aircraft manufacturers eye on China's air leasing market.

CFP Photo

multiples are the same as what foreign companies pay.

After the new Measures for the Administration of Financial Leasing Companies were launched on

March 1, five banks were approved to launch a trial financial leasing business. In addition to the four banks mentioned above, the joint venture financial leasing enterprise

by the China Construction Bank and the Bank of America has also been approved. Aircraft leasing has become the main target of these financial leasing companies.

First non-profit int'l healthcare website launched

By Han Manman

The first non-profit international healthcare web portal in China developed by Bridgetech Holdings International, Inc (BTHI), jk1.cn, in collaboration with leading healthcare institutions and organizations in China and the US, was launched in

Beijing last Friday.

JK1 provides Chinese readers with accurate healthcare and medical information spanning a wide range of subjects including information on the treatment, screening and prevention of life-threatening diseases such as cancer as well as hundreds of

other common healthcare conditions in China. JK1 has two sections; public and professional.

JK1 is the first healthcare web portal in China to source contents from institutions such as the US Government's National Cancer Institute and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality,

as well as academic institutions including Harvard University, Stanford University and University of Vanderbilt.

BHTI is a US medical technology company focused on maximizing the potential of emerging healthcare products and services in China.

Beijing leading in headquarters economy

By Jiang Xubo

The capital city ranked in first place with a mark of 88 for a third consecutive year on the list of the country's power houses for headquarters economy, according to a report jointly issued this week by the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences. Shanghai ranked second and Guangzhou came in third.

Beijing earned a mark of over 91 in the capability of research and development area, ranking first among 35 cities in the survey. Its government service only secured eighth place.

A total of 16 multinational companies headquartered in the capital by the end of 2005, in addition to 18 out of 22 Chinese-mainland-based domestic companies, which made this year's list of Fortune 500, the report said.

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Vehicles arrive in Beijing for charity

By Annie Wei

After a 27-day trip, 15 vehicles and 31 participants from Europe arrived in Beijing yesterday concluding a trip that began on August 26. The caravan crossed 11,000 kilometers through western Europe, Russia, Mongolia and China.

The charity event, called the "Peking Challenge 2007," was organized by Challenge Company in Europe, which set up a special fund called the Challenge for Charity Foundation.

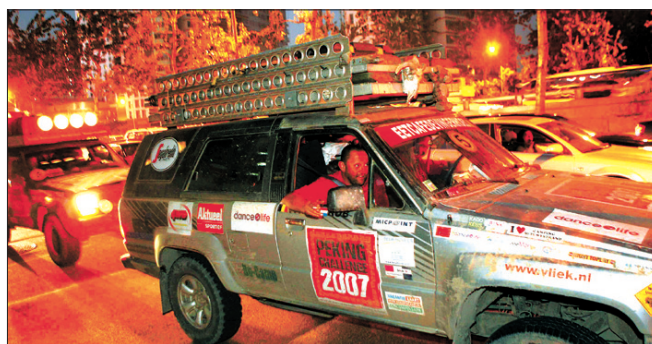
The organizers have also participated in the Amsterdam-Dakar Rally three times, which has attracted as many as 1,200 participants and raised about €1.5 million to support charity events in

northwest Africa.

For the 100th anniversary of the Peking-Paris Challenge, the organizers decided to open the Peking Challenge 2007.

"There are very simple rules for the challenge," Wang Lei, a staff member of Plan China, one of the NGOs the challenge is raising money for, said. "The price of the vehicle must not exceed €500, each participant may only have €250 prepared for the trip and each team must support charity," Wang said.

The money raised during the event will go to six organizations this year, including SOS Kinderorphan, Right to Play, Habitat for Humanity, Dance4life and OneMen.



The car team arrived in Beijing last night.

Photo by Hao Yi

Organizations that receive funds raised in the challenge must submit a program on how they plan to use the money and to ensure the program can be completed.

Plan China will cooperate with a local migrant workers' association to complete a program for migrant children, including sponsoring photographing, painting and acting group activities.

Bausch leads modern dance

By Han Manman

Master Pina Bausch and her Wuppertal Dance Theater presented her first performance at the Tianqiao Theater in Beijing from September 20 through 23.

For her first appearance, Pina Bausch presented Chinese audiences with two splendid works. The first half of the performance is "Cafe Muller," which describes feelings of loneliness and constraint. When it debuted, critics hailed it as a new concept blending theater and dance. The second

half of the show is "The Rite of Spring," influenced by German Expressionist dance, but which also reveals the unmistakable and unique character of Bausch.

In the last decade, Bausch's performances in Hong Kong and Taiwan evoked immense public response, but her plans to perform on the Chinese mainland fell through.

Bausch tends to be very private, and even after arriving in Beijing she has refused interviews or to allow any journalist

to watch her dress rehearsals. The only time the notoriously press-shy choreographer broke her silence was at last month's warm up press conference.

"I think my work speaks for itself. I always try to speak about all of us, about what we feel, about our same language, about our wishes, our hopes, our desires, our fears, about love, about yes, being human - and how beautiful each person is, and how fragile each person is ... And I think all these together is what I have to

say," she said, cigarette in hand.

Bausch's work gained fame when director Pedro Almodovar featured one of her dances in his film *Talk to Her*. Experts agree that she ranks among the most important choreographers of the era. Critics say her work is bold and visually arresting - she's choreographed pieces where the stage is covered in dirt, carnations or water, where men and women flirt tenderly, then fling each other violently across the room.



Pina Bausch and her Wuppertal Dance Theater performing in "The Rite of Spring."

Photo by Ye Jin

Musical producer aims at Chinese market

By Gan Tian

After 40 years of work as a producer, Sir Cameron Mackintosh held a press conference in Beijing on Monday to mark his cooperation with China Arts and Entertainment Group (CAEG), saying he will aim at producing local Chinese musicals.

The producer said he recognized the country's lack of musicals five years ago. "I first came to China in 1993. Going inside the country was one of my greatest memories

in my life. I thought it would be fantastic if I could bring my musical shows to China," Mackintosh said. "I realized my dream when *Les Miserables* was put on in the Shanghai Grant Theater in 2002. It took us five years, but turned out to be a great success."

"We are looking for talented actors, musicians, playwrights, designers, translators as well as lighting marketing and advertising experts. I couldn't have a better partner

than CAEG," he said. He expressed that the two partners should not only import more original Western musicals to China, but also train local experts. He said he hopes in the future *Les Miserables*, *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Mamma Mia* and other Broadway musicals will have Chinese versions.

"To create Chinese editions of Western classical musicals is a challenging task. We must maintain its original charm, and at the same

time, the Chinese versions should be of the same quality."

During his 40 years, Mackintosh has staged hundreds of productions including the three longest-running musicals in Broadway history - *Cats*, *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. In 1995, his company received The Queen's Award for Export Achievement and he was knighted in the 1996 New Year's Honors for his services to British theater.

Mysterious Japanese artist debuts

By He Jianwei

Japanese electronic composer and artist Ryoji Ikeda, debuted his new media works Wednesday at the National Agricultural Exhibition Center.

Ikeda focuses on the minutiae of ultrasonics, frequencies and the essential characteristics of sound itself in "Data Permeating," which he brought to Art Beijing 2007's special exhibition.

"Ikeda doesn't like to do interviews and refuses photographs because he wants more attention paid to his art works," Qian Jing, the program curator, said.

He has been hailed by critics as one of the most radical and innovative contemporary composers for live performances, sound installations and album releases.

Ikeda has exhibited and performed at many festivals and venues, such as the Centre Pompidou in 2001 and 2002, and the Tate Modern Turbine Hall in 2006. "His works and performances have never been experienced in China on a full-scale," Qian said.

As a solo presentation of Ikeda's works, *Data Permeating* shows the artist's audiovisual concert *C⁴I* and *datamatics [ver.1.0]*, part of his latest body of work, and a new video installation "The New York Times" produced in 2007.

Data Permeating focuses on new media works that re-write and re-figure our reality via digital information technology, as well as a human being's perception and recognition in an atmosphere where real and virtual are confused.

Those works unite moving images, electronic sound and other kinds of new media technologies - use data as their theme and material to explore the ways in which abstracted views of reality, or data, are used to encode and understand the world. Each work tries to explore the potential to perceive data and touch the threshold of perception and recognition.

Since 1995, Ikeda has been intensely active through concerts, installations and recordings, where he integrates sound, acoustics and sublime imagery. In the artist's works, music, time and space are shaped by mathematical methods as he explores sound as sensation, pulling apart its physical properties to reveal its relationship with human perception.

In 2001, Ikeda was awarded the Ars Electronica Golden Nica prize in the digital music category.

World's first hypnosis duo debut at Star Live



The World's first hypnosis duo, Dr Chaos (right) and Damien Noir



Audiences experiencing Dr Chaos and Damien Noir's hypnosis skills.

Photos provided by Glenn Alexander

By He Jianwei

The World's first dual hypnosis team, Dr Chaos and Damien Noir, will take the stage at the Star Live on September 22 for their first live show in China.

Dr Chaos is the stage name of master hypnotist Glenn Alexander, a Certified Master Trainer of Hypnosis and a Certified Master Trainer of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) having graduated from the Canadian Institute of Ethical Hypnosis. His partner Devin Michael Giles, stage name Damien Noir, is a Certified Trainer of NLP and a Certified Master Practitioner of Hypnosis.

"Other hypnotists also do public performances, but we are the world's first dual hypnosis team to do public shows," Alexander said.

Focus on concentration

Hypnosis is a state resembling a deep sleep, but more

active, in which a person has little will of his own and little feeling. Actions are performed based on the suggestions of the hypnotist.

Traditional hypnosis is a heightened sense of awareness. When a person is hypnotized, he is very much awake and conscious. His senses are keener and sharper. "Imagine looking through a camera lens and slowly zooming in on one part of the landscape with pinpoint accuracy and brilliant clarity. This is how hypnosis focuses the mind," he said.

The best example is early in the morning when you are half-awake and half-asleep and in the process of waking up, but still dreaming. "Dreaming simply means you are randomly using your imagination," he said.

"The smarter you are, the easier you are hypnotized," he said. If the subject's eye movement matches the hypnotist's, he will be easily hypnotized.

Funny and safe show

On Saturday night, the team will show the fun of hypnosis to ordinary people. "The person under my hypnosis will find his or

her nose becoming longer. When I tell him 'I'm pulling your nose to the left,' he will turn his head to the left," he said.

They will give the audience different settings and take them to experience the funny world of hypnosis.

One of the most common myths about hypnosis is that people lose control. The opposite is in fact true. People gain control and are much more focused than before. "No person can be hypnotized and be made to do anything against their own moral code," he said.

In one of his settings, he will tell people they are in a burning house and their shoes are the oxygen mask. Then he will ask them to take off their shoes and put them on their faces. "About two in ten are unwilling to wear those 'oxygen masks' because of some foot ailment," he said.

Passion for hypnosis

Alexander has appeared on many television shows and has worked as a DJ at a radio station. He has a passion for performance and loves hypnosis.

"Hypnosis is as easy for me as mathematics is to most other people, although I'm not good at

mathematics," he said.

In his clinical practice, he has been privileged to share many life-changing and truly empowering breakthroughs achieved by his clients.

He has helped one of his clients giving up smoking.

Giles and his wife moved from Japan to China to seek out Alexander and pursue his study of hypnosis and its powerful ability to change lives.

"When I asked him some questions about hypnosis, Giles wrote me 13 pages of answers in his own words. That's when I decided to accept him as my partner," Alexander said.

Info

Where: The Star Live, 50m north Lama Temple Bridge, 3F No 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: September 22, 8pm

Cost: 100 yuan in advance, 120-180 yuan at door

Tel: 6425 5677

Charity isn't just for the wealthy

By Jackie Zhang

Tian Qingqing, chairman of a special foundation in Canada, finished her visit in China last week. Her foundation helped 45 impoverished village girls in Gansu Province enter university this year.

Tian established the NGO foundation in 2005, and since then, she has returned to China twice a year to visit girls that the foundation supports.

She gave up university study during the Cultural Revolution and moved to Gansu Province, where she witnessed and expe-

rienced poverty. "That was the hardest period I ever experienced ... I wanted to go back to Beijing every minute," Tian said.

Today, Tian lives in Canada and owns a gallery. "My children have grown up and my life is better now. I want to try my best to help people living in Gansu," she said.

In 2005, she visited Gansu Province and donated money for the girls there for the first time. "I'm not rich. I have a gallery and employ two people. My son used to ask me why I did charity. He said charity was

for the wealthy," Tian said. "I regret giving up my studies. I want to help these girls to go to university. It's kind of a comfort for me."

Tian's money has been collected from public donations. Each year, she organizes several donation activities. Some money is donated by her gallery's customers, and some comes from strangers.

So far, the foundation has supported over 100 students to study in university. When Tian met the girls she supported last year, she said she felt released. "I



Tian Qingqing visiting the girls she supports in Gansu.

Photo by Li Chen

could see how they had changed, and it made me feel honored."

Tian plans to hold a concert in 2009 when her first group of sponsored girls graduates. "The concert will call for help. I will also sponsor girls with high scores to come to study in Canada," she said.

Events

Film Screening: The Future of Food

Deborah Koons Garcia's film *The Future of Food* (US, 2004, 89 minutes) investigates in-depth the increasing genetic modification in the US food market, raising questions about how crops are produced and how science is altering the way we eat. The film will be followed by a discussion of organic food initiatives in Beijing by Eva Sternfeld and Liora Pearlman.

Where: Room 70, China-Japan Friendship Environmental Protection Center, China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center, No 1 Yuhui Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 2pm-4pm, September 24

Cost: Free

Tel: 8463 6353

Chinese Tea Illuminated: A Workshop in the tea arts

You may have drank a cup or two, but how much do you really know about China's most famous export? This workshop introduces six Chinese teas from various regions across the country. Participants will learn to taste, brew and appreciate green, oolong and pu'er teas, while learning the history and culture which infuses each and every cup.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm September 27

Tel: 6586 9507

Talk: Musicals in China

Jiao Gang, famous director and choreographer, will talk about the development of western musicals in China, their import, and local efforts to learn and develop Chinese musicals.

Where: Room 201, Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm-9:30pm, September 26

Cost: 30 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (rerouted to mobile)

Lecture: Chinese Youth Cultures in Transition

By invitation of the Beijing International Society, Paul Clark, who pioneered the study of Chinese films in the West, will trace the emergence and elaboration of Chinese youth culture over the past forty years by focusing on three key moments. By 1988, youth culture creatively combined international and native elements. The popularity of the film *Red Sorghum* and of the new-style folk songs of the "Northwest Wind" illustrates this mixture. On the eve of the Olympics, Chinese youth culture is going global. This talk is based on research-in-progress.

Where: New Zealand Embassy, No 1 Ritan Dong'er Jie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30, September 27

(By He Jianwei)

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also called the moon festival, is one of the many Chinese holidays and a favorite during my childhood. At a time when the world was not as materially rich as today, moon cakes were so delicious. Computer games hadn't been invented, so we entertained ourselves making lanterns. Nights of reuniting with families and close friends, under the bright moon, preparing food and enjoying nice weather, was such a blessing of simple happiness.

Celebrate the moon festival with locals

By Annie Wei

Lanterns at Longtanhu Park

The Longtanhu mid-autumn lantern show spotlights 45 series of big-scale lanterns made by artists from Sichuan. To prepare for the show, they use more than 20,000 meters of cloth in 20 different colors. The best series shows two dragons hanging above the water. At night, the moon appears between the two dragons as if they are playing with it. At the same time, local folk artists perform traditional shadow-puppet shows for visitors.

Where: 8, Longtanhu Lu, Chongwen

When: September 21- 27

Open: 9am to 9:30pm as the park's opening hour, the moon festival starts after sunset

Tel: 6714 4336

Price: 10 yuan

Lugouqiao Miaohui

Miaohui, or temple fair, is a traditional festival celebration in north China. Moonlight at Lugouqiao is one of eight famous traditional scenes in old Beijing. Visitors can not only enjoy a view of the moon from the top of the old wall, but also watch local folk culture performance and gobble up various Beijing snacks.

To attract visitors, Sun Tao,



Longtanhu Park holds lantern festival every year.

CFP Photo

director from Lugouqiao Tourism Office, said they tried to present the place in old Beijing style by hanging big red lanterns and Chinese knots. As a matter of fact, Wanpingcheng Nei Dajie has been re-decorated in the decor of the late Qing Dynasty. During the *miaohui*, local Beijing folk art and performances will be seen, including *yangge*, a traditional festival dance, and Peking Opera,

as well as folk art from other regions in China.

Where: 101, Lugouqiaocheng Neijie, Guang'anmen Wai, Fengtai

When: September 22- 26

Open: 8:30am-11pm, and till midnight on September 25

Other traditional ways to enjoy the holiday

If you rent a courtyard house, it's a perfect way to spend a night with friends. Also,

it's very traditional fashion for local Beijing families. Other public places include Yuetan, which was specially designed for the emperor's family to offer sacrifices during the mid-autumn festival back in the Ming and Qing Dynasty. Beihai Park, Kunyuhe, the Summer Palace and Shishahai are also perfect spots for enjoying the night aboard a little boat.

One-day tour to taste capital's traditional culture

By Jiang Xubo

Tourists from around the world can enjoy new options when they come to personally experience the capital, thanks to five new one-day tour packages launched this week by the Xuanwu Municipal Bureau of Tourism.

The folk-custom package enables visitors to taste a slice of a Beijinger's typical lifestyle, which usually starts with morning exercises. The tour starts from Taoranting Park, where thousands of native people begin their day practicing martial arts or Taichi.

Tourists can then continue their tour to Liulichang Antiques

and Cultural Street, where you'll see clustered a number of intangible cultural heritages, including the Rongbaozhai, Dashilan Development Center of Folk-custom Culture.

What's more, the package includes a visit to the Beijing Acrobatics Troupe and the Hepingmen's Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant, offering a feast for both the eyes and taste buds.

The package for Peking Opera, Chinese painting and Traditional Chinese Medicine, includes a visit to the Xuannan Cultural Museum, Beijing Huguang Guild Hall and Beijing Tongrentang Medicine

Store, and offers an insight into the capital's traditional folk art and medicine. In addition, tourists get a chance to try Chinese traditional treatments.

Travelers from Asian countries, including Japan and Korea, may feel more interested in this package featuring the country's tea culture. The package offers a chance to visit Maliandao Tea Street, where there are numerous tea stores. Tourists can enjoy their cups of tea in the capital's most renowned teahouses, including Laoshe Teahouse and Zhangyiyuan Tea Store.

The traditional-culture-themed packages are part of the district gov-

ernment's promotional campaign, which started this week and continues through to the end of April, 2009. Each package will cost travelers around 100 yuan.

Xuanwu District, with a 3,000-year history, has been regarded as one of the capital's most important old downtown areas.

Travelers can apply for a "travel passport," a credential pamphlet issued by the district's tourism administrator, which entitles holders discounts at the sites and stores.

For more information, please call the administrator's information center at 6353 4583.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I read an article stating that 50 percent of Beijing's bottled water is common tap water. I am wondering which brand of water is safe to buy now?

Most major brand manufacturers refused to comment, so we can only provide you with some tips when examining water products to lower your chances of getting ripped off. For purified bottled water, you can test it at home. Normally, purified water has a very low degree of density, so it shouldn't show white bubbles when you boil it. Look for an anti-counterfeit mark on each water bottle. Also, you can call the manufacturer's number to confirm whether it's fake or not. Remember that authentic bottled water is clearer without contamination. And one last tip, look very suspicious every time you have your water delivered.

Hey, do you know where I can find a great butcher shop selling good meat like beef, pork and New Zealand lamb?

To be honest, our knowledge is limited in telling the difference between lamb produced in China and New Zealand. But we heard there is a good French butcher on the Xingfucun Zhonglu, next to the April Gourmet's shop. It's behind the white compound at the north side of Gongti Beimen (north gate of the Worker's Stadium). Also, *Beijing Youth Daily* featured a story this week about 916 yuan per kilogram steak in the supermarket at the Jinrongjie Shopping Mall (2 Jingfangjie, Xicheng).

I am a milliner (hat maker) who just moved to Beijing. I am desperately looking for hat-making materials. In particular: sinamay, a natural fibre which comes from the Philippines, felt cones and straw cones. I spoke to someone from a hat factory in China and she said that all the factories order sinamay directly, from the Philippines. I only need rolls of varied colors. I have been to a flower market and textile market. Can you tell me what sinamay and felt are in Chinese (and pinyin)? Also, I am looking for hat-blocks or a hat-block maker.

Sinamay is called "Xinamei Mabu." "Xinamei" is almost the same sound as "sinamay" in English. "Mabu" is how Chinese describe the feeling of the material which is like linen. Currently, we do not have too much information about retail and wholesale textile markets apart from the one in Muxiyuan. But maybe you can try alibaba.com, the leading trade B2B website in China, with Chinese and English versions. Also, we will keep looking for related information about hat-blocks and hat-block makers for you.

(By Wei Ying)

Traffic notice for Badaling highway

By Annie Wei

From Monday to next Tuesday, one half width of the Badaling highway exiting Beijing, will be under construction and drivers should choose alternate routes to avoid bad traffic jams.

According to the local traffic authorities, the Badaling highway is the primary route heading north-

west in Beijing, as well as the main road to the Badaling Great Wall.

However, since 1997, when the highway was completed, part of the road has been damaged due to heavy traffic flow, about 10,000 vehicles per day.

The traffic authority explained why September was a good period for the project: July and August

are not good since that is the peak tourist season, the "Good Luck Beijing" mountain bike testing event happens in August as well; and the evening temperatures in October might be too low for the mountain roads to allow quality construction work.

Trucks, apart from those carrying meat, eggs, milk and vegeta-

bles under a four-ton weight limit, are not allowed to travel from Yanqing Yingchengzi to Changping Xiguan Huandao.

For anyone wanting to drive to the Great Wall, you can choose Xiguan Huandao exit to Badaling Highway's sub-road to the south gate, and then motor on the 110 Guodao sub-road.

Modern Pentathlon champs ready for Olympics

By Qiu Jiaoning

Lithuania's Edvinas Krungolcas and Egypt's Aya Medany have respectively won the title of men's and women's 2007 Modern Pentathlon World Cup champions in the "Good Luck Beijing" Olympic test event held between September 15 and 16.

Their strong performances in all five disciplines, including shooting, fencing, swimming, riding and running, have qualified them for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Krungolcas took the gold with a score of 5,788. Though he was still behind Peter Sarfalvi's World Overall Points Total Best Performance (5,824 points), his score was enough to show that he would pose a great threat in the 2008 Olympics. "I'm so happy because I won for the fourth time in the World Cup Finals and qualified for the Olympics," Krungolcas said.

Germany's Eric Walther took the silver medal ahead of Lithuania's Andrejus Zadneprovskis.

Medany won the competition



Pentathletes put many new Olympic venues to the test.

with 5,536 points, just eight points ahead of second-place Elen Rublevska (Latvia). Unfortunately, Medany's performance was not enough to challenge the nearly five-year old modern pentathlon overall total points World Best Performance record of 5,720, held by

Great Britain's Georgina Harland.

It was an emotional path to the top for Medany who started the day with 1,120 points in the shooting, ranking her ninth. After fencing, she was still sitting in ninth position. A fast swim of 2:16.35 placed Medany in a great position ahead of

the final two disciplines. The riding saw the new World Cup champion scoring a further 1,116 points and, with just the final running event to go, she was ready to attack in third position. She started the run with a handicap of nine seconds and immediately set the pace.



Players in the women's triathlon final.

Portugal and Spain win women's and men's triathlons

By Zhao Hongyi

At the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Beijing BG Triathlon World Cup last Saturday, the World's No 1 candidate, Vanessa Fernandes of Portugal, did not disappoint the audience and won the women's triathlon championship with a time of 2:35. She also won the running event with a time of 34:16.

Fernandes was followed by Emma Snowsill from Australia with a total time of 2:01, then Laura Bennett from the US with her time of 2:02:06 for all three events.

Running is the last event of three in a triathlon competition. Needless to say, after 1.5-kilometers of swimming and 40-kilometers of cycling, the 10-kilometer run would be a great challenge for any athlete's physical strength. It is often the case that, those who show superb staying power in the running event, will eventually come out on top in a triathlon tournament.

Vanessa Fernandes, who followed the others in the two previous swimming and cycling events, began to show

her strength in the running event, leading the group throughout the race and leaving the runner-up behind with a time of 1:06.

In the men's triathlon competition, Javier Gomez from Spain, also ranked first worldwide, won the gold timing out at 1:48. He was not among the top three during the first two segments of swimming and cycling but finished first in the last 10-kilometer run with a time of 30:41.

Courtney Atkinson from Australia won the silver at 1:49:03 and Bevan Docherty earned the bronze medal at 1:49:08.

China's Xing Lin finished the running competition with a time of 38:20 to place 17th in the women's competition with a total time of 2:04:32, while Zhang Yiming ranked only 64th in the men's competition at 1:58:22.

The men's and women's triathlon competition was held over the weekend at the Ming Tombs Reservoir, an important water source for 15 million Beijing citizens. It is also the 12th stop of the BG Triathlon World Cup series.

China makes history by entering the goalball finals

By Zhao Hongyi

China beat the powerful Sweden team by a wide margin of 8-3 last Sunday at the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Goalball Invitational Tournament held in the Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium.

On the same day, Lithuania trounced the US, 5-2, to take the bronze medal. They placed fourth.

Last Saturday, China stunned everybody by beating a strong field to qualify for the finals beating the US, 6-4. Sweden defeated Lithuania, 5-3.

As a late-comer to goalball, China has seen rapid development over the past two years. While the Chinese women's team ranks among the world's best, the men's team is inferior in strength.

The tournament only invited

eight men's national teams to participate: Lithuania, Sweden, Finland, US, Canada, Denmark, Japan and China.

This time, however, the Chinese men's team did exceptionally well, first beating Canada and Lithuania to lead, and then edging Finland and the US to make the finals. This was also the best result ever achieved by the Chinese men's team.

Judging by its performances over the past three days, China put up a tight defense and played with varied tactics. Needless to say, China enjoyed all the favorable advantages by playing on home soil.

Moreover, the absence of top players in some of the teams also made it possible for China to show its progress over the years.



A Finland baller is diving for the ball.

CFP Photos

Chinese team ready for 2008 Games

By Yao Jia

The men's event of the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Modern Pentathlon World Cup Final, with two Chinese athletes taking part, came to an end at Beijing's Olympic Sports Center last Saturday.

Since the Pentathlon Chinese team has already been qualified for the 2008 Olympics from previous competitions, their main purpose for participating in this event is simply to become accustomed to the field.

"This game has the same competition schedule and stadium setup as the 2008 Olympics. Our main aim is to acquaint ourselves with every thing related to the Games, including the competition program and the venues," He Jialin, one of the coaches responsible for the shooting team, said.

"For one of our competitors, Qian Zhenhua, shooting is a breeze, since recently, he got first place in that event," He said.

Sun Qi, the fencing coach said, "Qian did not perform as well as he usually does in this discipline. I think it was because his high expectations led him to pay too much attention to the scoring rather than playing the game."

Riding coach Wang Zhongnian said, "With horses selected randomly, riders needed to create a bond with their horses quickly during the competition. Some riders were luckier than others with their chosen steeds. But skill also plays an important role in the game."

Zhang Bin, who is in charge of the whole national team said, "The future of Chinese pentathlon is aggressive. Scientific training is necessary so we have brought in some special equipment to help the athletes do better work."

Mountain bikes roll tomorrow

By Gan Tian

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 International Mountain Bike Invitational Competition will kick off at the Laoshan Mountain Bike Course tomorrow.

The female competition starts at 11am, and the male at 2pm. The competition is a mass start event, where the first rider to complete the distance is declared the winner after several laps of the circuit.

The competition will be held at the Laoshan Cycling Complex located in the western suburb of Beijing. Male and female riders will use the same route. It is estimated that the race will take about two hours for the riders to finish.

A total of ten Men's teams and ten Women's teams will take part in the competition, each team consisting of three riders. These are first-class athletes selected by the organizing committee according to their international ranking.

Spectators can buy tickets at goodluckbeijing.com.cn, or call the hotline at 6406 8888 or 6417 0058. Tickets are also available at the venue's box office. Each competition costs 10 yuan. Only standing tickets are available, no seats this time round. Online banking and credit cards are all acceptable except at the box office.

Pentathlon World Cup rehearsal a success

By Qiu Jiaoning

The 2007 Modern Pentathlon World Cup Final took place September 15 – 16 in Beijing. The two-day competition, part of a series of test events leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games, drew 36 male and 36 female participants from around the world. These top pentathletes came to test the venues and conditions in

preparation for next year's Games, and also to stake a claim on Olympic eligibility.

Not only did the local organizers do a good job, but the athletes performed excellently, and the World Cup Final in Beijing was a successful rehearsal for the 2008 Olympic Games, Klaus Schormann, president of the International Modern Pentathlon Union (UIPM), said.

Venues and facilities

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Good Luck Beijing Modern Pentathlon World Cup Final were held in three venues, the shooting and fencing events will be at the Fencing Hall of the National Convention Center, swimming will be held at the Ying Tung Natatorium and riding and running at The Olympic Sports Center Stadium.

The construction of the venues and supporting facilities for the Olympic modern pentathlon competition is a prime example of the "Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People's Olympics" motto. The organizers used advanced environmental protection technologies and building materials and maximized their use of natural ventilation and lighting.

"This venue is satisfactory. The organizing committee made all preparations within the time we had agreed on to ensure smooth progress," Schormann said.

Olympic Sports Center Stadium

To host the Modern Pentathlon during the games, the stadium was built with a large floor area that seats 40,000. After the Games, it will be used to train the national team, for large-scale performances and events and even as a soccer training school, Feng Huabin, officer of Olympic Sports Center Project Department, said.

And A-Si solar panel is used to provide 56,280 kilowatt hours of electricity. The municipal recycled water system is utilized in all the bathrooms in the stadium. Underwater reserves are in place to water the turf, and rain water from the high bridge and roof flows down into a man-made lake.

Ying Tung Natatorium

The newly-renovated, two-story Ying Tung Natatorium, located in the national Olympic Sports Center, covers 66 hectares. It fully demonstrates the concept of Green Olympics construction and is built with environmentally-friendly technologies and building materials. The facility maximizes the use of natural ventilation and lighting.

During the Games, shades will help prevent lighting from affecting the competition. After competition, natural daytime exterior lighting will help reduce the need of artificial electric lighting.

Two air adjustment systems will ensure a comfortable temperature for both athletes and spectators. The Ying Tung Natatorium features a recycled water processing room on the underground floor.

Fencing Hall of National Convention Center

The Fencing Hall, south of the main building of the National Convention Center, will be a competition venue for both the Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2008, a spokesman for the organizing committee said.

The warm-up court lies in the Banquet Hall with seating for 3,000 spectators. Fencing and shooting in the Modern Pentathlon were held on the main room above the Banquet Hall with a maximum seating capacity of 4,300.

After the Games, this hall's sophisticated lighting, audio and video capabilities can easily host large scale conventions, banquets and exhibitions.



Athletes took a splash during the women's swimming event.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

Security and transportation

By Bu Kai

On the morning of September 15, thousands of spectators, officials, journalists and athletes poured into the National Convention Center where the fencing and shooting events of the 2007 Modern Pentathlon World Cup Final were held. The organizers did a brilliant job with meeting the goals of severity, rapidity and circumspection in their security checks. The checking instruments, installed in every entrance of the venue, required only two to three seconds on average to examine each spectators.

The organizing committee handled the traffic system well. Although huge construction in Olympic Village has left winding roads, guideposts marked the correct path. There were no traffic jams around the venue.

The Good Luck Beijing bus line helped speed up traffic by connecting the three venues during the Modern Pentathlon World Cup Final. An official at the entrance said road conditions will be better after construction of the Olympic center is finished.

Volunteers and service

By Tian Yi

A total of 1,667 volunteers were involved in this tournament, including 84 professional volunteers, 28 of whom were experts in guiding horses. The organizers recruited interpreters of nine languages to help athletes and coaches from non-English-speaking countries.

The volunteers were positioned along the venue routes every 50 meters, indicating directions loudly and clearly. Their bright orange jackets and warm welcomes raised spectators' spirits before they entered the venue.

The volunteers covered security checks, ticket collecting, information consulting, Fuwa performances and language assistance.

"I'm really impressed that the game has so many athletes involved. They are like a window through which China can display its international image," a German cameraman remarked.

As for the riding competition, 28 volunteers in charge of leading horses were professional athletes. Their solid knowledge and ample experience helped them keep the horses in a good mood.

Inside each venue, professional medical volunteers were assigned to provide first-aid. Outside, two ambulances were ready in case of emergency.

Xuan Yong, medical manager, said there would be 23 medical staff at the competition. Aside from professional medical skills, the medical staff can also speak English and write prescriptions in English.

For the first time, the organizers provided trilingual sign boards, adding a French version to the original English and Chinese, since French is one of the official languages in international fencing.

Comment

By Tian Yi



I'm a big fan of the Olympics and haven't missed a single match during the Good Luck Beijing series if time allowed. I'm impressed by the volunteers' fashionable uniforms and would like to have one for myself.

— Lu Yaxin, clerk



I'm very excited about the upcoming Olympics. You are preparing well. The 2008 Beijing Olympics will be a historic moment.

— John Jakovich, spectator



The venue is well-organized; the volunteers and the organization teams are friendly with the spectators; and the atmosphere is brilliant. I hope it will remain the same in 2008.

— Christian Buchner, researcher on Modern Pentathlon



The volunteers are amazing. They are the backbone of the games. There wouldn't be any games without their hard work.

— Kim Eradhl, manager of graphics for Beijing Olympic Broadcasting



Language is the biggest problem I've had since few Chinese people speak English. I would suggest the volunteers prepare more necessary information. Anyway, the venue is good, and so are the games.

— Fabio Pantolone, Italian team official

Photos by Tian Yi



The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Beijing BG Triathlon World Cup kicked off last Saturday at the Changping Triathlon Venue. CFP Photos

Triathlon athletes perform on platform

By Zhao Hongyi

The "Good Luck Beijing Triathlon" competition, which is also the BG Triathlon World Cup and qualification test for next year's Olympics, was held over the last weekend

at the Ming Toms Reservoir, north of Beijing.

Due to its importance, the two-day fierce competition brought a world-class performance to the audience. Many believed it to be of an Olympic caliber.

Splendid competition venue at reservoir

The reservoir is one of the important water sources to 15 million citizens in Beijing and has been under protection by the government since its construction in 1958.

The organizer sectioned off the slope of the dam into audience blocks with an 8,000 seat capacity which will increase to 10,000 for the Olympic Games.

"I did not expect that we could have such a beautiful, natural competition venue," Vasileios Krommydas, coach of the Greek team, said with surprise.

More surprisingly, the organizers set up a 546-meter long and 27-meter wide platform at the foot of the dam next to the course-shifting points and finish line where athletes pick up their bicycles after finishing the first course of the 1.5-kilometer swimming event. They also drop off their bicycles on the platform after the 40-kilometer course and start the 10-kilometer running race.

"It provides the audience a great vantage point to witness all the most exciting segments of the competition," Li Mengjun, deputy venue manager for media, explained.

The reservoir has a small island in the middle supporting a traditional Chinese pagoda. All of the island and pagoda have been cleaned and planted with trees and flowers. This offers a perfect setting in which the athletes can perform.

To make the runways more perfect, a high-quality road has been constructed to link the two most beautiful roads together for the athletes to cycle around the reservoir.



Belgian athlete Peter Croes competed in the men's final.



Sarah Haskins from America led in the women's running event.

Environment conscious

On the new platform, at the foot of the dam, are laid green rubber belts that are very eye-catching and provide perfect field sense for the athletes. All the rubber belts are made of used tires, Li Mengjun said.

It's also the first time these products have been used in China, much cheaper and more environmentally-friendly. After the Olympic Games, these rubber belts will be granted to the schools in Changping district, where the reservoir is located.

Under the platform, the organizers used over 100,000 cubic meters of high-grade steel to ensure it will not pollute the water. All this steel will be used after the Olympic Games.

The biggest success story involving environment protection is the reservoir itself which provides fresh, clean and high-oxygen content air to all the athletes and spectators. "This is an important factor to assist the athletes to perform excellently," Li Mengjun said, proudly.

Full service

Aside from the competition venues, the organizers have rented a huge section of the Nine-Dragon Entertainment Park on the reservoir's south bank to use as their service and organizing base.

At the entrance of the park stands a series of temporary buildings, including the press conference hall, press center and photographers' center. Here you can get all the information you'll need about the athletes and competitions.

Turn right at the main entrance to find a road leading to the dam and competition venues. Along the road are buildings providing services for the athletes who can check in, relax or receive medical treatment. From here, the athletes enter the starting point for the swimming event, the first course of the triathlon competition.

"In designing the lay-out and routes, our focus is to provide 'convenience' for all the athletes, coaches, officials, media and spectators," Li Mengjun said.

Comment

By Zhao Hongyi/Li Xueyi



The scenery here is so beautiful, with the Chinese pagoda, huge lake and warm spectators. But I found some annoying small stones and sand on the cycling road outside.

— Venessa Fernandes, champion, Portugal



Everything is perfect. If I had to mention anything unsatisfactory, I'd have to say the water is a little bit low not as deep as I imagined. But I know Beijing lacks water and you are trying to pump it from the Yangtze River.

— Vasileios Krommydas, coach, Greece



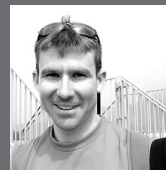
All the facilities and runways are perfect but I think that the athletes have to cycle and run too many laps. Also, you should add more positions for the photographers.

— Gustavo Svane, official, International Triathlon Union



The triathlon field is perfect. The Ming Tombs Reservoir is very beautiful. Our hotel is near the field. The accommodation and the food is nice, we feel very comfortable. Maybe because it rained yesterday, the place where the players go into the water isn't ideal.

— Gregory Allan, team official, Canada



The volunteers are polite and kind-hearted. I was deeply moved by the other spectators when they said, "Come on" to every athlete they pass. The only disadvantage of the field I see is that the WCs are too far from the auditorium and there are too few. It would be better to build more near the spectator area.

— Archlan Johnsson, spectator, Australia

Photos by Zhao Hongyi/Li Xueyi

Comment

By Yang Xue



The gymnasium is excellent. I loved it at first sight! What's more, it is similar to a hockey arena in Canada named the Saddle Dome, which impresses me very much.

— Lorna Snow, technical official, Canada



This is my first time to China, I find I can't totally adapt to the new weather conditions, as Beijing is a little hot, rainy and humid. What troubles me most is the air pollution, I think it should be dealt with as soon as possible.

— Janice Dawson, team leader, Canada



To be honest, I think the traffic in Beijing is not very good. There are too many cars on the road, especially during busy times. I believe more subway lines will greatly improve the traffic situation.

— Danielle Wheeler, English teacher, US



I suppose the internal music should be chosen from pieces known the world over. Of course, that's what Beijing is doing right now. As an ancient country, in my opinion, China should choose some classical music, as well.

— Dan Raris, referee, US



I find the security checks too complicated, and it even forces me to miss parts of some events. So I do think this needs to change when the Olympics arrive in 2008.

— Brooke Holliday, teacher, US

Photos by Yang Xue

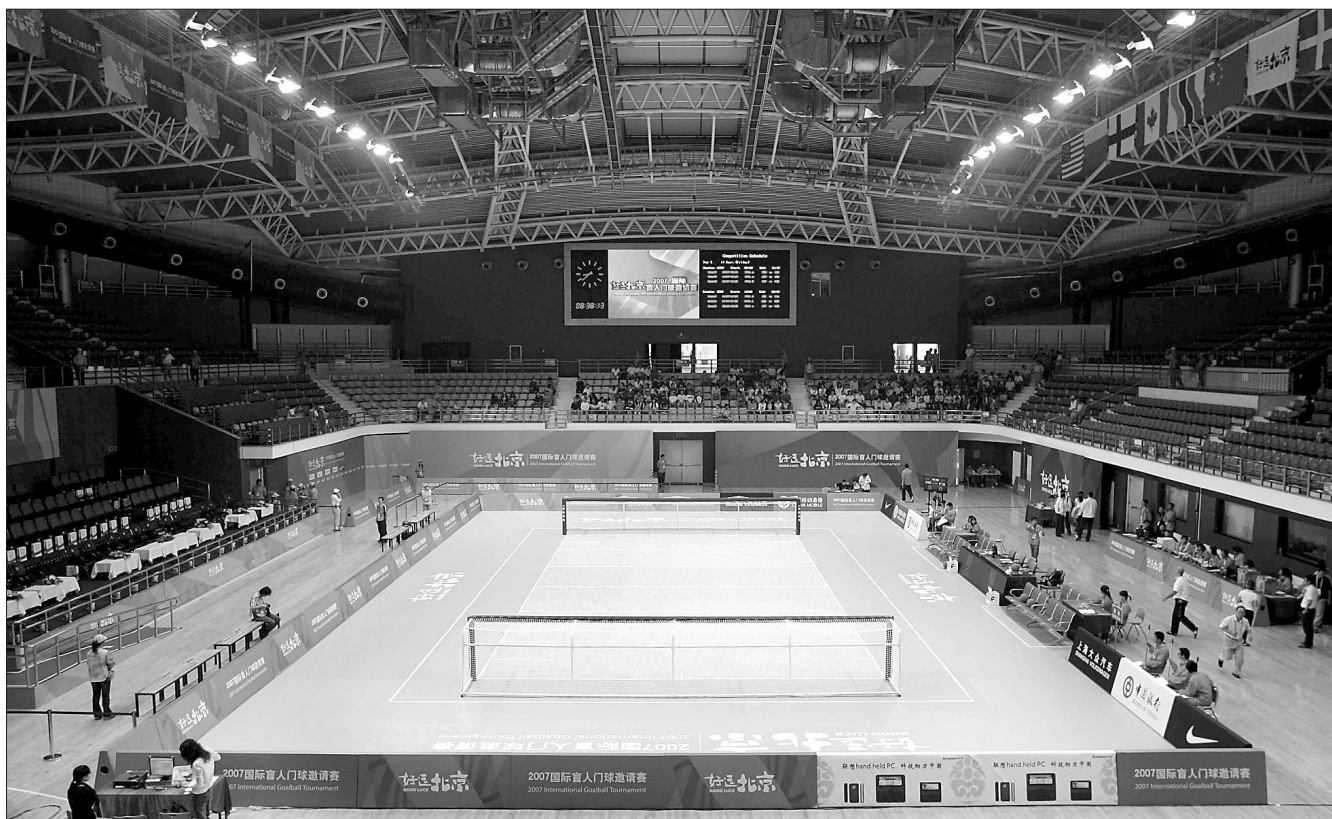
Beijing hosts only Paralympic trial

By Zhao Hongyi

The "Good Luck Beijing" International Goalball Tournament, the only paralympic trial event, was held in the gymnasium in Beijing Institute of Technology, west of

Beijing. The four-day event closed over the weekend.

Eight countries sent teams to participate in the competition: Lithuania, Denmark, US, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Japan and China.



The only paralympic trial event was held in Beijing Institute of Technology last week.

CFP Photo

New gymnasium on campus

To prepare for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the Beijing Institute of Technology, with investment coming from the games organizing committee, re-built the old gymnasium into a totally new silver-colored structure between its two playgrounds, enriching the landscape of the campus.

"We're very proud to have this new building," Wang Zhao, a second-year student of automation at the institute, said. "We're waiting eagerly to enjoy the stadium after the Games."

The gymnasium has 5,000 seats and will be used for volleyball competitions during the Olympic Games and goalball games during the Paralympic Games.

Blind athletes use their senses of hearing and touch in the goalball competition. Therefore, noise is not allowed inside the gymnasium. The gymnasium has a seven-centimeter glass fiber-laid roof which absorbs nearly all outside noise. The organizers repeatedly reminded visitors to be quiet during the competition.

The gymnasium is a comprehensive building with dozens of small areas for training, like the kung fu hall, fitness hall, rehearsal hall and piano practicing hall, to name a few.

The main hall is suitable for many types of competition, like volleyball, badminton, basketball and handball. It is easily re-formatted and can be transformed into a large-scale meeting hall, for example, after re-arranging of the seats.



Accessible facilities were launched for handicapped people during the games.

CFP Photo

Humanitarian care

Another characteristic of the new gym is the full humanitarian care access and facilities. Paths for the blind lead to every corner of the building and braille is available everywhere, including doors, boards, seats, toilets and goal frames.

Inside, volunteers remind you from time to time not to walk on the paths set aside for the blind.

Volunteers wear fluorescent wristbands which make them easy to recognize for athletes who

need help. Two wheelchairs for ladder climbing are also at the ready for any emergency use.

Inside the elevators, two sets of buttons are installed — one at normal height and the other positioned lower for handicapped access.

Inside and outside the gymnasium, you cannot find stairs. All the up and down traffic is facilitated by the slopes.

Afraid of walking into glass gates? No problem. The organizers have pasted eye-catching logos and marks on every glass gate and wall.

Security and media center

Security checks are very strict at every Olympic Games venue but it is much tougher here for the sake of the handicapped athletes.

On the first day, the security guards at the entrance found a cigarette lighter in my bag and confiscated it. Outside, crowds of police and security guards stand shoulder to shoulder.

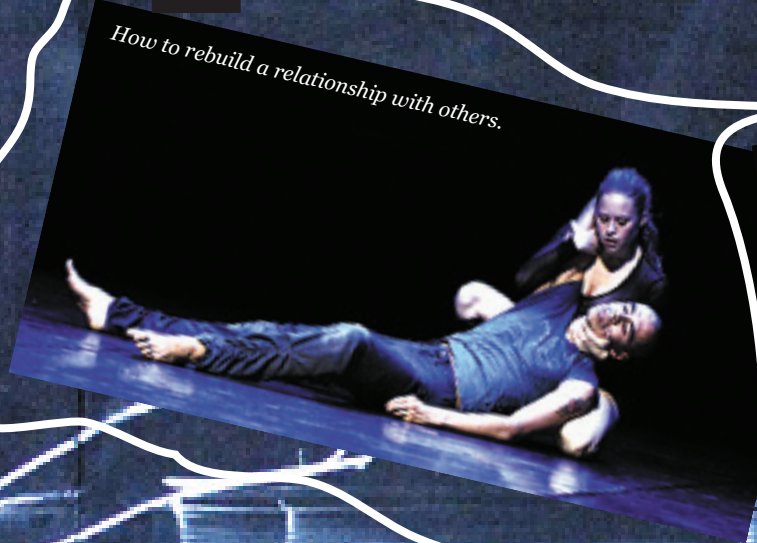
The gymnasium has more volunteers than any of the other venues. The purpose,

according to press manager, Wang Jun, is to provide assistance to the athletes in case of incident occurring.

Different from other venues, the gymnasium has prepared an independent press center for disabled reporters, photographers and editors. Paths for the blind are laid out in the middle of the passages and handrails are installed at the most convenient height on the four walls.

Imperfection ea

How to rebuild a relationship with others.



“Imperfection is more beautiful,”

Rushton said repeatedly during the interview. “Every day, people are trying to be ideal and perfect, but I think that perfection is not reality,” he said.

Rushton and his dance theater presented two programs – “Animal Park” and “Kridt” – in Beijing last Friday and Saturday and will be back on September 23 at Peking University Concert Hall.

Ballet mixed with modernity

The ballet dancers stretched their body lines as beautifully as they could; sometimes they tried distorting them. As I watched the performance, I noticed that the audience seemed to really enjoy the movement between ballet and modern dance.

The style of a dance troupe is usually determined by the experience of its choreographer. Tim Rushton was born in 1963 in Birmingham, England. He was educated at The Royal Ballet in London and was an active dancer, mainly with northern European companies, until the mid-90’s.

He ended his career as a dancer at The Royal Danish Ballet in order to focus on choreography, and gained respect quickly as a creator of modern dance. He was subsequently commissioned by many dance and ballet companies.

What could have been a controversial crossover from classical ballet to modern dance has proven to be a fruitful amalgamation, making Rushton one of

Scandinavia’s leading choreographers and he has received several awards for his works.

“For me dance is a translation of feelings. It’s another means of communicating that starts where words stop. I wish to create a space open to the experience and an acknowledgement of feelings,” Rushton said.

Rushton gave up the ballet, as he said, because he was tired of it. “It is too beautiful,” he touched his head, “I made the prince in the ballet dance, but I was losing my hair day by day.”

He believed modern dance was much freer and could strongly express the dancer’s individuality. “I like the lines in ballet, but I also like to destroy them. I believe that imperfection is more beautiful,” he said.

Probing human relationships

One dancer tried to make a house in the corner of the stage using bars, while another dancer destroyed it. All the dancers began to rebuild their relationships through the dialogue of their bodies.

Animal Park is an unusual work for Tim Rushton. He normally takes deliberately chosen music and a defined theme as his starting point when creating a new choreography; but this time, he decided to use the varied backgrounds and nationalities of the company’s dancers as a springboard.

Animal centers on the fear human beings have to admit and acknowledge, their own weaknesses. The performance is a cry for attention, a human chaos. Each individual dancer has a specifically defined character to explore, and the performance exposes every character’s egoistic trip and their own personal idiosyncrasies.

The house on stage symbolizes the relationships between people. Some want to build it; while others want to destroy it. It equates to the rebuilding of relations among people.

“One dancer tries to build something, but cannot finish it; as another dancer constructs a whole house for

herself and then lies down on the stage quietly,” Rushton said.

The music is from Geir Jenssen’s “aka Biosphere,” which matches the theme of the dance-existence and co-existence. Jenssen is a Norwegian musician who has produced a notable catalogue of ambient electronic music. His “aka Biosphere” sounds more post-modern, which reveals Rushton’s passion for music.

“I aim to give my audience lasting emotional experiences. As we become more and more open-minded towards abstract art, we are able to mirror ourselves in perceptions, which are emotionally, physically or aesthetically-based, rather than intellectually-based,” he said.

Depicting human eternity

“A time to be born and a time to die; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to love and a time to hate,” reads a row of Chinese characters, written in chalk on an onstage blackboard. The words are taken from the Bible.

Kridt tells in dance, music and spoken and written word about man’s attempt to accept and comprehend life. Based on Peteris Vasks’ string quartet, “Musica

chalk, which electrocutes that is pro he dies,” I At the dancer, w stage. “W really abo

Man can be beautiful

By He Jianwei

"The world is a dull penumbra and disorder in the foreground where man is found. But now the stars, concealing landscapes, reveal the perfect scheme of their courses," I whispered these lines repeatedly as I remembered Danish Dance Theater's performance from last Friday night.

Tim Rushton, choreographer of Danish Dance Theater, told me that his favorite poet is Federico Garcia Lorca of Spain. Previously, I quoted two lines from Lorca's poem "Ode to Salvador Dali," which made me understand Rushton's dance much better.

Adventus," and biblical text from Ecclesiastes, Rushton and his dancers draw the contour of a man in a split second – balancing between life and death – life passes by: doubt, trust, solidarity, loneliness, encounters that took place and meetings that never materialized. "I begin with the human being, because what we do is infinitely connected with who we are. Using the human body, I can dissolve or reinforce an emotion, and continue some of the thoughts and stories that mere words are powerless to express," he said.

On stage, a dancer draws another dancer's outline in which resembles the lines of a human heartbeat on an cardiogram. "It is that life line swinging up and down proof of the existence of a man. We can feel it after he said.

end of the dance, the performers raise up one who is dying, as the chalk ashes fall down onto the e always say 'ashes to ashes and dust to dust.' It is ut life and it is beautiful," he said.

The chalk outline swings up and down proving the existence of a man.

Photos by Ye Jin

No matter what kind of idea he tries to express, Rushton doesn't like the audience saying "It was nice." "My hope is always to be able to take the audience with me on a journey – to strike a fundamental note that everyone can relate to. I create strong physical images with sensuality and sincerity," he said.

About the Danish Dance Theater

Established in 1981, the Danish Dance Theatre is one of the major forces in contemporary dance in Denmark. Choreographer Tim Rushton was offered artistic leadership of the troupe in 2001. He rebooted the company, aiming at a newer and stronger artistic profile. Since his take-over, the theater has become in demand, producing fascinating works and events both nationally and internationally.

Under Rushton, the company flourished into a highly individual landmark – where his close collaboration with the dancers has resulted in the bridging of many boundaries of style and technique. The company demonstrates a unique ability to reflect the nuances of human relationships. This success has, for the first time, caused much admiration among the circuits of dance and theatre in Denmark and Europe.

Rushton refuses to follow trends, and therefore introduces a new Nordic profile. In 2005, the Danish dance Theater moved into its present home at Folketeatret.dk in central Copenhagen. The company is mainly supported by the Performing Arts Committee of the Danish Arts Council, the regional institution CphT – Copenhagen Theatre and the Danish Ministry of Culture.

Another book on business in China

What is there left to say



Ted Plafker

By Han Manman

It's common knowledge that China has the fastest-growing economy in the world. What is not common knowledge is how Western companies can gain a foothold and increase profits by

doing business within China.

Business journalist Ted Plafker has written a fully-detailed-yet-user-friendly handbook on how individuals and companies can succeed in this challenging and often confusing environment.

Doing Business in China: How to Profit in the World's Fastest Growing Market (292pp, Business Plus, US\$24.99) is a practical guide to the challenges of China's business market. Sections include pinpointing top emerging markets, laws, rules and regulations, understanding cultural differences and sales and marketing.

There are no shortage of business books to introduce the Chinese business environment or case examples of western businesses in China. "I read other books on business in China while writing my book to figure out what they didn't

cover," he

said. This book focuses on "how to" rather than "why," and uses the author's first-hand experience to access parts of China other books have yet to touch on.

"My book is less focused on thematic issues like where China is going. I'm focused on advice and how to function in the environment here – more practical and prospective," Plafker said.

As a 13-year Beijing Correspondent for *The Economist*, Plafker has considerable first-hand business experience in China. "I have a bit of a back stage of the American company try to make it here in China," Plafker said. "As a journalist, I can bring a good contact and good understanding of other stories. I have the background to understand the businessman's point of view, because I've lived here so long."

Plafker has lived in the capital since 1989, and has been writing on China for *The Economist* since 1994.

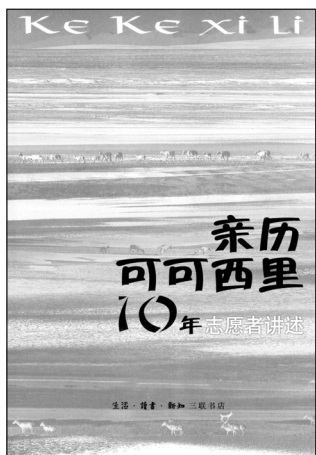
DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA



HOW TO PROFIT IN THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING MARKET

TED PLAFKER

Ten years of volunteering in Kekexili



By Annie Wei

Kekexili, a vastly isolated area of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, was little-known ten years ago. The movie *Kekexili*, filmed by promising young Chinese filmmaker Lu Chuang in 2004, has increased public awareness about wildlife protection.

Kekexili tells the touching story of how patrol volunteers have tried to protect Tibetan antelopes from poachers, and has received numerous awards and nominations at international film festivals.

To further expand the volunteers' adventures, Sanlian Bookstore is releasing *Qinli Kekexili Shinian (Ten Years in Kekexili: the Stories of Volunteers, 223pp, Sanlian Publishing House, 28 yuan)*.

The book was written by members of Green-river (green-river.org), a natural and ecological conservation NGO which promotes the protection of the Yangtze Yellow River headwaters environment and fosters public awareness about conservation.

The book records almost 20

volunteers' lives and experiences in Kekexili, covering topics on animals, wild poachers and how they protected the Tibetan antelopes, aided sick children and dealt with dumpings from the new Qinghai-Tibet railway.

Yang Xin, director of the NGO and founder of China's first non-government nature conservation in Kekexili, is one of the most important witnesses to the area's changes and the development of domestic NGOs.

Yang tells the story of how he got involved in Kekexili; how he started the NGO in 1995; how he raised money for the NGO by selling books; the patrol killed in a battle with poachers that Lu Chuang's movie was based on; and how the Green-river volunteers got organized.

Compared with Lu Chuang's over-the-top presentation in film, the book is much more down to earth. All proceeds from the book will be donated to Green-river.

CNPIEC Bookstore's Recommendations
The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following US best sellers for Beijing Today readers.

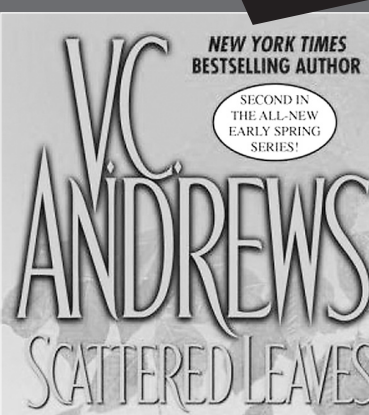
DAVID WEBER OLD SOLDIERS



Old Soldiers

By David Weber, 400pp, Baen, 80 yuan
Captain Maneka

Trevor was the sole human survivor of the Dinochrome Brigade's 39th Battalion, but she didn't want to be one. The Bolo, known as "Lazarus," was the 39th's sole surviving Bolo, but he hadn't been hers. The doctors and Bolo techs have put them both back together again, yet there are wounds no doctor or technician can heal. Maneka and Lazarus must serve together once again in a war whose stakes are literally the survival or extermination of the human race.



Scattered Leaves

By V.C. Andrews, 416pp, Pocket Star, 80 yuan

After tragically tears her family apart, Jordan March is shipped off by her domineering Grandmother Emma to live with Emma's long-forgotten sister. Shattered in a rundown farmhouse, Aunt Frances is the strangest person Jordan has ever met. Why has Grandmother hidden away this fragile, harmless woman – did Frances grow up much too fast, like Jordan did? In the shadows of the farmhouse, Jordan is about to unearth the shattering truth – and the March family will never be the same.



Starter Wife Movie Tie

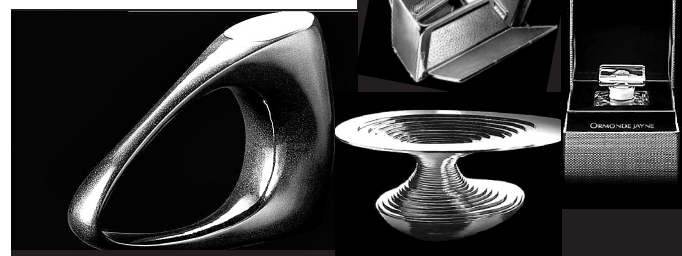
By Gigi Levangie Grazer, 480pp, Pocket Star, 80 yuan

When Gracie Pollock is dumped by her husband Kenny mere months before their tenth wedding anniversary, she is left completely dumbfounded. Sure, life as the wife of a semi-famous Hollywood executive often left her yawning, but she was blissfully accustomed to the luxurious and cushy lifestyle it afforded her.

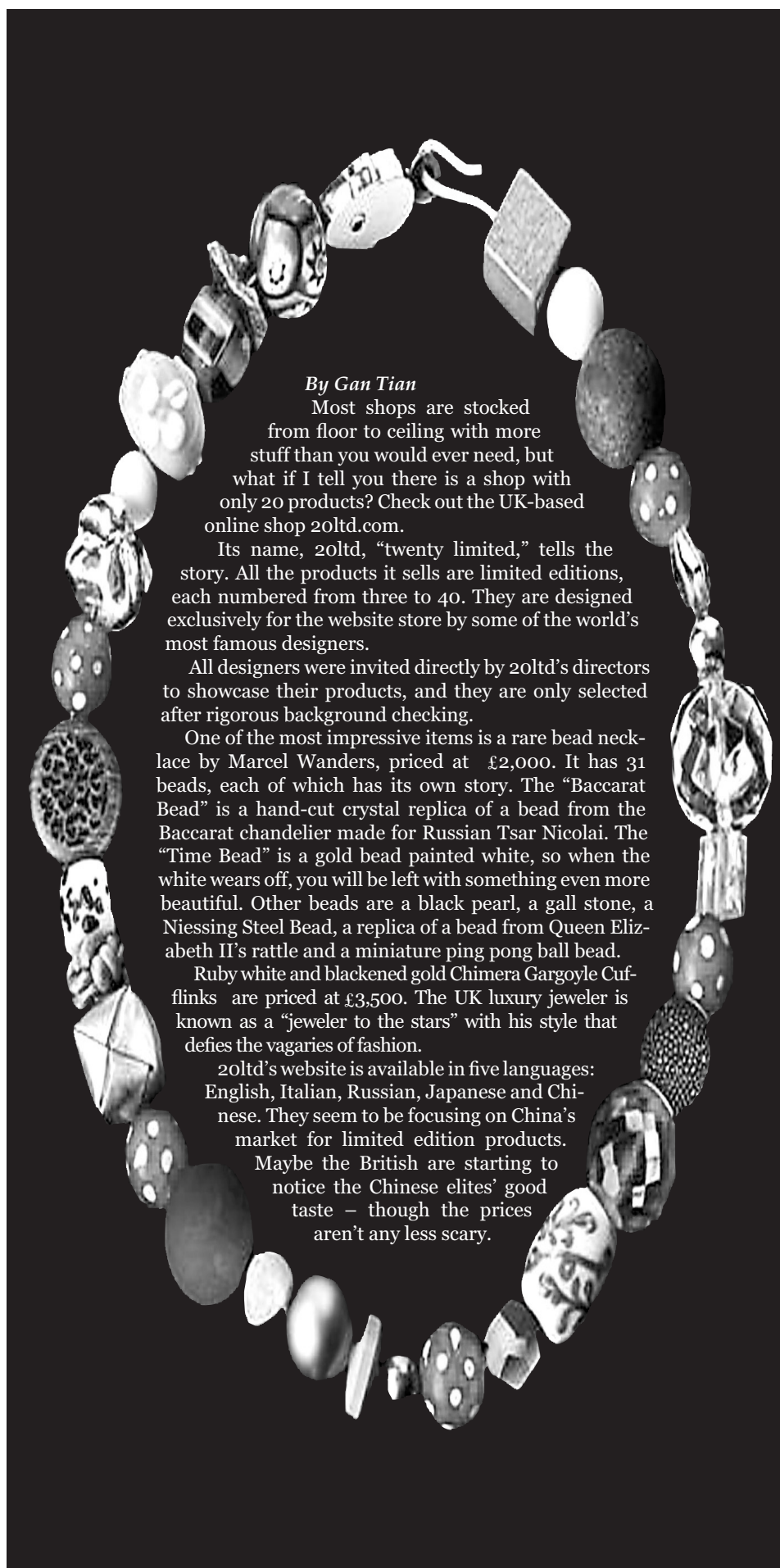
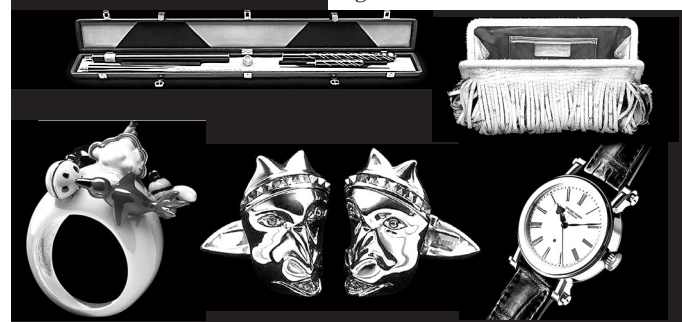
(By He Jianwei)



Only 20 things



From top left: Eva handbag, Black 'technical silk' Mens Cap, 'A split second before imploding', Champagne tong and stopper set, 'Parruchino' ring, Handcuff Bracelet in 18 Carat Rose Gold, Embroidered lap top sleeve, Special edition 'Henk' suitcase, 'Seraphim' scent, Laser-cut black acrylic humidifier vase, 'Sils Chameleon' vase, 'Set Piece' chair, Chandelier in hand-blown black transparent glass, White gold and black enamel 'op' art heart pendant chain, Special edition American white ash and ebony snooker cue, Laser pricked Goat leather La-Tat clutch bag, Yellow gold and enamel 'Supernature' ring, Ruby and white and blackened gold Chimera Gargoyle Cufflinks, The Piccadilly.



By Gan Tian

Most shops are stocked from floor to ceiling with more stuff than you would ever need, but what if I tell you there is a shop with only 20 products? Check out the UK-based online shop 20ltd.com.

Its name, 20ltd, "twenty limited," tells the story. All the products it sells are limited editions, each numbered from three to 40. They are designed exclusively for the website store by some of the world's most famous designers.

All designers were invited directly by 20ltd's directors to showcase their products, and they are only selected after rigorous background checking.

One of the most impressive items is a rare bead necklace by Marcel Wanders, priced at £2,000. It has 31 beads, each of which has its own story. The "Baccarat Bead" is a hand-cut crystal replica of a bead from the Baccarat chandelier made for Russian Tsar Nicolai. The "Time Bead" is a gold bead painted white, so when the white wears off, you will be left with something even more beautiful. Other beads are a black pearl, a gall stone, a Niessing Steel Bead, a replica of a bead from Queen Elizabeth II's rattle and a miniature ping pong ball bead.

Ruby white and blackened gold Chimera Gargoyle Cufflinks are priced at £3,500. The UK luxury jeweler is known as a "jeweler to the stars" with his style that defies the vagaries of fashion.

20ltd's website is available in five languages: English, Italian, Russian, Japanese and Chinese. They seem to be focusing on China's market for limited edition products.

Maybe the British are starting to notice the Chinese elites' good taste – though the prices aren't any less scary.

Design your shirts online

By Gan Tian

I hate shirts. My closet is dominated by T-shirts and jeans without a black suit or white shirt in sight. T-shirts are imagination and design killers worn by commuter drones that populate the city's buses.

At least that is how I felt until I found icaifeng.com, which sounds like "Love Tailors" or "I am a Tailor" in Chinese. The website allows users to design their own shirts, and not something simple like your standard-issue T-shirt – we are talking about high class gear.

The blue-toned website offers several options at the top: whole shirts, professional shirts, everyday shirts, designer

shirts, fashion, membership and service.

Clicking on "whole shirts" (Quanbu Chenshan) will pull up a huge number of shirts to order. The "professional shirts" link offers even more catalogs, with shirts for IT workers, PR managers, financial workers, designers, doctors, job-hunters and reporters – though I certainly don't like wearing suits during an interview! Under the "everyday shirts" section, you can find pre-designed shirts for different days of the week.

What makes the web catalog special is that these shirt choices are only styles. After picking a style, you can choose the color, collar size, your height and your

weight. Boys, be honest this time. You can't make a shirt that doesn't fit your height. Even though I am only 168-centimeters tall, I always tell other people I am 172-centimeters.

You can even add some letters to your shirt design. Type in some text and set the position and color. Imagine having a shirt embroidered with your girlfriend's name on the collar ... how romantic!

Most shirts cost 150-300 yuan. If you want to embroider letters, it will cost an extra 20 yuan. After paying online, your shirt will be ready in two weeks.

I'm waiting for my reporter shirt with my name embroidered!



Park dining experience



By Chu Meng

Chaoyang Park hasn't as much history as venues such as Houhai or Nanluoguxiang. It is a comparatively new site in town. However, because of its convenience and lovely natural scenery, busy office workers and foreign embassy staff members in the immediate area have taken to spending their spare hours during "working days and nights there. And they can do it without taking a taxi.

Another advantage of the park area is its mixture of international eateries. It is a dining and entertainment place where a boyfriend can always please his special girl. You can enjoy the exotic cuisines of southeastern Asia, and the old traditional favorite of Beijing's stuffed, steamed bread, called *baozi* locally. You can really loosen up with a bottle of beer in Hong Kong style Suzie Wong's Club, or shake your booty at the Goose and Duck Sports Pub.

Illustration by Wang Bin

Continued on page 17 ...

Suzie Wong

By Chu Meng

Suzie Wong is more club than bar. The curious go to see its 1960s film-inspired decor, which is like stepping into Hong Kong of the past. If you are lucky, you will arrive early enough to get one of the Ming Dynasty beds.

Welcome to Shanghai 1939. As vagabond journalist Bernard Shaw titled it, the "Paris of the East" was an electrifying Sin City of nightlife sexuality, mystery and strength. A mix of this Shanghai 1940 decadence with New York 1920s swing, Club Suzie Wong is Sin City resurrected and ready to party in 2007.

Decorated like a lavish 1930s Shanghai cabaret, Club Suzie Wong's Touch Club has fast become Beijing's premier nightspot, boasting classy clientele, beautiful patrons and an active desire to promote the unexpected. Operating in the allusive Oriental 1939 fantasy and redefining Sin City mysteries of sexuality, indulgence and Chinese strength, Touch Club offers an eclectic mix of hip modern music, design and clientele.

Complimenting Touch Club's high-octane vibe are Club Suzie Wong's laid-back upper floors, showcasing a rich Chinese character flush with Ming (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) ambiance and design. "Made in China" transcends its pithy maxim, assuming a reality both in atmosphere and design - one indicative of the fun spirit that first drew Beijing's nightlife. Rich in hardwood character, the upper floors are adorned with authentic opium beds, a large wood-balcony overlooking the bar and an extensive outdoor terrace. The upper floors are among a select handful of worldwide saloons that pay faithful homage to classical Chinese design.

In addition to Latino Night on Tuesday, Ladies Night on Wednesday, Hip Hop Bling Bling Model's Night on Thursday and Beijing's best parties each weekend, the club showcases top DJs and MCs from Beijing, Hong Kong, Australia and beyond. Monthly parties and occasional celebrations are also common, making it the definitive Beijing party house.

A great place to meet old friends or entertain new ones, the club's character out-trumps fashion, and rowdy chants of "cheers!" and raised glasses are expected. East meets West, and the Oriental allure of mystery, sexuality and glamor is met with the modern edict of fun.

Where: 1A South Nongzhanguan Lu, West Gate, Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang

Open: 7pm-4am next day

Cost: 70 yuan per person

Tel: 6593 6049



Photos provided by Suzie Wong

Annie's Italian pizza experience

By Chu Meng

Unpretentious, affordable Italian food, voted "Best Italian" and "Outstanding Pizza" in the Beijing Travel Guide's 2006 Reader Restaurant Awards.

A casual, cozy, and tremendously welcoming Italian bistro tucked away amongst the nightspots at Chaoyang Park, Annie's is the hands-down favorite for affordable Italian fare in Beijing. Wood-fired pizzas are the most popular item, but try the baked gnocchi gratinate with tomato and broccoli, or the chicken ravioli served with spinach and a fine tomato cream sauce.

Appetizers and desserts are just average, the notable exception being the cannoli, a sinful blend of cottage cheese and dried fruit with a touch of brandy in a fresh shell of fried dough. Annie's staff is friendly and happy to bring as many baskets of free bread, served with small jars of pesto, as you want.

Annie's has been striving to give families more than just an enjoyable place to wine, dine and relax. Understanding that going out for dinner can be hard on children, since having to sit still for an hour or two can be a strain on any kid, Annie's has introduced a new concept into the Beijing restaurant culture: a quiet corner where the kids can play in a happy and safe environment.

Besides the Chaoyang Park branch, it has four other branches across the northeastern urban area. They are in the Dashanzi Art District area, Jianguolu CBD area, Sanlitun bar area and Shunyi South area.

Where: A1 Nongzhan Nanlu (near the west gate of Chaoyang Park), Chaoyang

Open: 11am-11pm

Cost: 80 yuan per person

Tel: 6591 1931

WiFi wireless internet access;
Delivery available;
All Chinese and foreign credit cards accepted



Photo provided by Annie's

Fu Ze Hotpot

By Chu Meng

Fu Ze Hotpot restaurant is not just another Hong Kong style hot pot restaurant. This recently opened eatery is set to impress with its fashionable interior, beautiful park scenery, exquisite tableware and, of course, its succulent pots.

The first things that catch your eye are the red roses dotting the decorative dividers between the tables. The red chairs and snow - white tablecloths look equally pleasant. Curtains of glass beads are used with good effect.

The menu at this hot pot restaurant is much simpler than that of many others in the city, a long sheet of paper with all the choices. You simply tick off the dishes you want. The cold appetizers are definitely worth trying and the crispy pork ear slices are a winner. The black fungus is a healthy option. If you are curious, you can also try their preserved eggs with green chilli slices.

Different cuts of beef and lamb are offered,



Photo provided by Fu Ze Hotpot

which vary in quality and price, as well as a beef-mutton combination. The fresh hand-cut beef is excellent. The marinated chicken is also a tasty choice. A very unique item is the Japanese Kobe beef, which comes at a stunning 638 yuan per helping!

Also recommended is the mashed shrimp, fish and squid combo. Their baked wheat cake with sesame paste is baked in the restaurant and has to be one of the best in the city.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate, above the Richang restaurant

Open: 24 hours

Cost: 100 yuan per person, accepts International Credit Cards

Tel: 6593 1082



Photo provided by Goose and Duck

Goose and Duck sports pub

By Chu Meng

One of the oldest expat hang-outs in the city, this comfortable British-style sports pub lets patrons catch up on the latest sports news over a frothy Guinness and a lip-smacking shepherd's pie.

The best part of the pub is that it's open 24-7. It has great bands. In the hot and humid summer nights after work, it is a fabulous place to cool down your body and brain with a couple of ice cold beers in the outdoor pavilions. With brisk and melodious live music in the background, you can take in the beautiful scenery of Chaoyang Park through the big windows.

Whether it's to eat, watch sports or just drink, this is a great place for all activities. I would recommend it to anyone looking for a taste of Britain whilst in China, or just a change of scenery.

Actually, this city sports pub originated from the success of the Goose and Duck Farm on the outskirts of Beijing. The boss of the farm wanted his clients to have a handy place to meet in the downtown area for a glass of beer or to cheer at a televised evening football game. Thus, the sports pub was born just opposite the west gate of Chaoyang Park.

I can't help but offer up many compliments to the farm for presenting a countryside environment and attractive entertainment. It's located about an hour outside Beijing in the beautiful outdoors.

Its neighbors are the city of Huairou and the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, along with other village sightseeing spots. The Ranch offers all the comforts of home, nestled in the countryside alongside the farm's very own river, range of mountains and sweet-smelling orchards. Just drive out into the countryside for the day or maybe a weekend. The Goose and Duck prepares individual, family or company outings and programs.

Where: Chaoyang Park east, No 1 Guanhu Garden Tower, Chaoyang

Open: 24 hours

Cost: 100 yuan per person, Accepts International Credit Cards

Website: gdclub.net.cn

Tel: 5928 3045, 6538 1691



Photo by Chu Meng

Guizhou Luoluo Suantang Yu

By Chu Meng

I love this place for its artsy air and authentic southeast China cuisine. *Suantang Yu*, or fish in sour soup in English, is its signature dish. With deliciously fresh fish and delightfully sour broth, you are sure to want to take home the leftovers.

Suantang Yu is fish cooked in sour-tasting pickled cabbage soup, which makes it more tender. It is served in a hotpot with some chilli peppers and tomato juice. Though the boiled soup looks extremely red, it is not as spicy and hot as it appears. Most of the color comes from the tomato.

The dish is common in Guizhou-style restaurants. The way of eating *suantang yu* is more like eating hotpot in Beijing. You finish the fish boiled in the sour soup, and then you can boil whatever you want in the soup: vegetables or other meats. The taste is quite unique because the flavor of the fish is fused into the soup.

Also try the Beef Rice Noodles (*niu rou xi mian*) or the Fried Rice with Sour Radish (*suan luobo chao fan*), perfect for those who like a pucker. The spare ribs are melt-in-your-mouth perfect, as are the cold noodle dishes in a piquant sauce.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate

Open: 11am-10pm

Cost: 120 yuan per person

Tel: 6594 0939

Valley's Kitchen for southeastern craving

By Chu Meng

Valley's Kitchen is the first and only Thai restaurant in the Chaoyang Park dining area; it serves some of the best Thai fare in town. With a new menu and two new Chefs flown in from Bangkok, it offers your taste buds fresh and fine Thai cooking.

The decor is exquisite, thanks to the boss's gift for design. Everything is imported from Thailand – even the chopstick. Specialties created by one new Thai chef use only the freshest of ingredients and a range of spices imported from Thailand. All the traditional Thai dishes are available, and table settings and service are truly authentic.

Special recommendations go to Chicken in Pandan Leaves, Spicy Prawn Soup with Lemon Grass, Beef with Yellow Curry and Sago, Honey Melon in Coconut Milk, Thai Vermicelli Salad, BBQ Fish Paste and Deep Fried Prawn Balls



Photo by Chu Meng

stuffed with Mozzarella Cheese. If you are thinking of ordering a salad, you can sample it for free before ordering.

The sweet herb Lemon Grass grows in abundance in Thailand and is widely popular for its nutritional and medicinal properties. Thais use the grass as a main spice in all manner of dishes, all of which seem as popular overseas as at home.

Romantically located beside the park scenery, Valley's Kitchen resembles a mini-Thai exhibition hall, complete with a goddess statue at the gate and small, artsy ornaments on every flat surface.

Where: south of Chaoyang Park West Gate

Open: 11am-11pm

Cost: 75 yuan per person

Tel: 6591 8666

...continued from page 18

An Die An Niang

Small but tidy place for Beijing-style meat pies, stuffed, steamed breads, stir-fried dumplings, porridge and a wide variety of side dishes.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 10:30am-9:30pm
Tel: 6595 1122
Cost: 25 yuan per person; credit cards not accepted

Annie's

Warm, cozy and consistent, Annie's has some of the most polite wait staff in Beijing. It serves up the usual Italian spread of pastas and pizzas. Extremely kid-friendly, this great Italian chain has high chairs and toy corners, and children can color the tablemats and make their own pizzas. Perfect for families or families-to-be.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 11am-11pm
Tel: 6591 1931
Cost: 80 yuan per person
WiFi wireless Internet access; delivery available; credit cards accepted

Four Seasons

Japanese Restaurant

Yet another sushi option on the Beijing dining scene. This restaurant offers efficient service and reasonable prices. Unfortunately, no set menus are offered, and the food itself falls short of stellar. It's still a good choice if you have a sushi craving near Chaoyang Park.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open 11am-10:30pm
Tel: 6502 2280
Cost: 120 yuan per person

Fu Ze Hotpot

Fu Ze Hotpot restaurant is not just another Hong Kong-style hot pot. This recently-opened eatery is set to impress with its fashionable interior, beautiful park scenery, beautiful tableware and, of course, its succulent pots.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate, above Richang restaurant
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6593 1082

Cost: 100 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

Gisa Restaurant

The chef is from Milan and the owner from Sicily. Together, they make great fare including genuine, wood-fired pizzas. Try the discreet mezzanine upstairs for a romantic rendezvous with your newest conquest. The tiramisu is a must, coupled with an espresso or grappa. Perfect for sharing a pizza.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 11am-2:30pm, 6pm-11pm
Tel: 6594 0938
Cost: 150 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

Good Fortune Grill

Standard Korean restaurant offering good-value hot pot and

Goose and Duck

One of the oldest expat hang-outs in the city, this comfortable, British-style sports pub lets patrons catch up on the latest over a frothy Guinness and a lip-smacking shepherd's pie.

Where: Chaoyang Park east, No 1 Guanhu Garden Tower, Chaoyang
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6538 1691
Cost: 100 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

BEIJING TODAY

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barbecue dishes. Friendly wait staff cook the ingredients fresh at your table. Try the marinated barbecue beef for a filling main course or spicy Korean soups for a great snack. It's open 24 hours, so pop in after some late-night bar or club action to recharge. Perfect for a late night re-fuel.

Where: south of Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open 24 hours
Tel: 6593 6599
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Gui Zhou Luoluo Suantang Yu

Sour fish soup is the dish of choice here, with deliciously fresh fish and delightfully sour broth, you'll be sure to want the leftovers. Also try the beef rice noodles (*niu rou xi mian*) or fried rice with sour radish (*suan luobo chao fan*) – perfect for those who like a pucker.

Where: West Gate of Chaoyang Park
Open: 11am-10pm
Tel: 6594 0939
Cost: 150 yuan per person

Home Inn Hotpot

Chinese Sichuan style dry hotpot for spicy cravings.
Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate

Open 11am-10:30pm
Tel: 6591 4608
Cost: 70 yuan per person

Jenny Lou's Shop

Jenny Lou's is bound to be mentioned in any conversation about where to find Western food items in Beijing. Jenny's has capitalized on the ever-increasing demand for foreign goods that are hard to come by in Chinese supermarkets. These include cereals, muesli, chocolates, yogurt, cheese and other dairy products. The prices are much higher than local equivalents.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 8am-midnight
Tel: 6461 6928

Luck Dragon Restaurant, Chaoyang Branch

For expats, it features absolutely exotic Chinese cuisine. There's a kind of lamb stew Beijingers call *yang xie zi*. It is actually sheep spines. People call

it "*xie zi*," or "scorpion" in English, because the shape after stewing looks like a scorpion.

Where: south to the Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 10am-11pm
Tel: 6586 1301
Cost: 50 yuan per person

MUSE

The French-Vietnamese fusion cuisine at Muse is coupled with speedy service, making it a popular site with expats. Try the fresh spring rolls that come with a tasty dipping sauce, or the mild-yet-delicious coconut shrimp soup. There's often a line, so you might not want to stick around. Grab a Vietnamese coffee with condensed milk and run – perfect for speedy French-Vietnamese fusion.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 11am-11:30pm
Tel: 6586 3188
Cost: 75 yuan per person

OTTO's Restaurant

You're not here for the decor or the service, which is spotty at the best of times, but for the tasty and reasonably-priced dishes like spare rib rice. This place is more cafeteria than restaurant, suitable for easy-going diners. While you may have to wait for a table and remind the waiters three times for your bill, when all is said and done, the food is satisfying. It's perfect for meat and fresh veggies at your pace.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 9am-4am the next day
Tel: 6593 1078
Cost: 50 yuan per person

Sophie's Shop

Sells classical Chinese fine tableware and dishware intended for both daily use and decoration; fine crystal glasses, plates and girl's accessories.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 10am-9pm
Tel: 6506 6386

Suzie Wong

Suzie Wong is more a club than a bar. The curious go to see the 1960's film-inspired decor, like stepping into Hong Kong of the past. If you are lucky, you will arrive early enough to get one of the Ming Dynasty beds.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 7pm-4am the next day
Tel: 6593 6049
Cost: 70 yuan per person

Valley's Kitchen

The first and only Thai restaurant in Chaoyang Park's dining area. It serves some of the best Thai cuisine in town. With a new menu and two new Chefs flown in from Bangkok, it will offer your taste buds some of the freshness of fine Thai cooking.

Where: south to the Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 11am-11pm
Tel: 6591 8666
Cost: 75 yuan per person

St Patrick's Day at Alexandria

All's quiet on the Potomac

By Shida Zhu

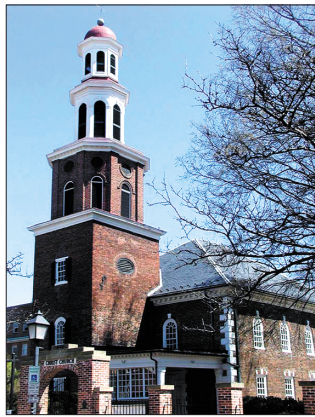
Alexandria is intimately connected to the US's first president, George Washington, who helped plan out its streets and lots. His troops drilled in it and attended religious services, balls and political activities in it. On the hill in the western part of town is the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, dedicated in 1932. Beyond the western border is the Protestant Episcopal Seminary of Virginia.

History

When I first arrived at Alexandria in northern Virginia by train from Crystal City in Washington DC, I was shocked by the beauty of the Potomac River that flows so quietly by the town's edge. Similarly beautiful and quiet was the town itself, with its shady streets, pebble-covered old Captain's Street and the immaculately-manicured lawns grown with green creeper oxalis that remind one of the Irish and Thomas Moor's poems.

The first settlement in town was made in 1695. Scottish merchants founded the Bellhaven community in 1731. Many Irish immigrated here as indentured servants, railroad workers and policemen.

Old Christ Church in town, founded in 1773, is where George Washington, and later Robert E Lee, worshipped; the Carlyle House is where General Edward



One of the town's landmarks

Braddock made his headquarters while preparing for the expedition to Fort Duquesne; the Gadsby's Tavern is where Washington kept headquarters while recruiting rangers for the campaign of 1754. America's oldest pipe organ is stored at the 1774 Presbyterian meeting house, and the town is home of the Alexandria Gazette, one of America's oldest newspapers founded in 1784.

St Patrick's Day

Alexandria is very much Irish. The day of my arrival coincided with St Patrick's Day, March 17. Groups of jovial holiday-makers, dressed in green T-shirts, green sweaters and green blouses, marched from the Masonic Church through King's Street to Fairfax. They shouted in Celtic, "Cead mile failte!" or "Ten thousand welcomes!"

Among the marchers was a leprechaun sporting a green barrel hat, green jacket, a pair of white stockings and shoes with green tassels strung at the top. According to Irish legend, they carry pots

of gold, and when the kids on the side line saw him, they couldn't help shouting: "Gold! Gold!"

Typically Irish was a band of Uilleann pipers, dubbed the Green Diamond, who blew bagpipes and beat their drums to Celtic beats. They had embroidered caps with a dangling, red velvet-tipped silver bar that danced joyfully with the beat. They played "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" and "McNamara's Band."

To the whistles of on-lookers, old and young, men and women, male dancers in white stockings and checked fancy blouses danced a frenzied waltz, constantly chang-



Rangers on horses

ing their female partners in a circle formation. Their stockings were strung with red cloth strips that flew like butterflies with their quick steps. Another group of step dancers quickly clicked their clogs on the ground in exhilarating rhythms. "May you live long, may you have land without paying rent, may you have a child every year and if you can't go to heaven, just go and die in Ireland," they said.

Irish Touch

I went to Murphy's on King's Street. The curtains were all green-colored and the brick fire-

places were aflame, sending waves of heat into the early spring air. The bar offered corned beef, cabbage, Irish stew and seafood as "Danny Boy" played for the revellers on the first floor. The music was looked down on as "marsh music" or "peasant music" just a decade ago. We sampled Guinness, moderate creamy stout, crisp ales and bold lagers. We had stewed lamb and crab meat cakes and, of course, potatoes. Irish chefs can work wonders with potatoes. The baked potato cake was particularly tasty. It is said that an Irish girl who doesn't know how to make a potato cake can never find a husband.

A girl from Georgetown University arched her body and put a cup of beer on her chest to loud cheers from the crowd. A driver went up to buy a cup of Irish coffee – two spoonfuls of sugar and an ounce and a half of Irish Whisky topped with cream.

I talked to Kallen, a 22-year-old girl who had just immigrated from Dublin to Alexandria. She was fairly amused by the scene. "These Americans are very interesting. She seems that they can only express themselves through noise," she said. She said that she



Alexandria street scene

Photos provided by Shida Zhu

liked American life and the pace here, though she missed Dublin. "It's totally different here from life in Ireland. Life is much more relaxed back home, and yet it is good to have an incessant drive here. It's much better here because you can make a lot of money."

A man called Moran told me that grandparents on the distaff side were immigrants from Cork County, Ireland. He had a strict Irish upbringing in Massachusetts. It was a typically large Irish family with six children. If his uncles and aunts were added up, he said, it might be a family of several hundred. They still had family get-togethers on Sundays in accordance with Irish traditions. He told me jokingly, "I hope that I can produce a few dozen myself."

These Irish-Americans are culturally both Irish and American. They are proud of being both.

Getting there:

Amtrak serves VRE stations at Alexandria offering intercity rail links along America's eastern seaboard

Tel: +1-800-USA RAIL

Maryland Rail Commuter Service serves as a major means of commuting between Washington DC and Northern Virginia.

Tel: +1-800-325 RAIL

Where to stay:

Inn Alexandria Old Town, 1456 Duke Street, Alexandria, 22314

Tel: +1-703-548 5474

Comfort Inn Landmark, 6254 Duke Street, Alexandria, 22312

Tel: +1-703-642 3422

CTS brings low-glucose mooncakes

CTS (HK) Grand Metropark Hotel, located at the southeastern corner of Guang'anmen, offers six types of mooncake gift boxes priced from 108 to 218 yuan. Among them are non-sugar mooncakes, specially designed for low glucose healthy diets.

"Moon cakes, crispy and sweet

inside, are like being able to take a bite out of the night sky." The mooncakes made by the Grand Metropark Hotel keep their special snowy exterior with dark, baked filling. Chinese crab apples, orange and milk mixed with a glutinous rice outer skin lend to their refreshingly sweet tastes, different from the greasy and oily

mooncakes of old. As for dark baked mooncakes, the skin is milky with a sweet scent. There are many different fillings, including blueberry, chocolate and green tea.

Where: CTS (HK) Grand Metropark Hotel, 338, Guang'anmen Nei Dajie, Xuanwu

Tel: 8352 9999 ext 8331



Konstanz

A simple, relaxing border town



Winter in Konstanz

Small town

Konstanz is a small, cathedral town with a population just under 80,000. It is off the shore of Bodensee in southwest Germany, a location that protected it during the air raids of World War II.

The Rhine, which starts in the Swiss Alps and runs through the Bodensee, splits the city in two. North of the river is the larger part with residential areas and industrial estates; while south of the river is the old town, the administrative and shopping center.

Two old city gates mark the remains of ancient fortifications. The cathedral, founded in the 11th century and rebuilt in the 15th, has fine, hand-carved oak portals and choir stalls. The huge Council building, the Minster with its cloister, the Cathedral Dean's house, the Island hotel – a former Dominican monastery – and archaeological finds now exhibited in the Regional Museum of Archeology, are only a few of many sites worth visiting. Konstanz has many other historic buildings, narrow streets and a promenade along the Bodensee.

Close to the lake there is a little pier, and at the end is a statue of a lady. She looks quite inviting, with a bare upper body and one leg sneaking out from under her skirt. In her hands, she holds former medieval German Emperor Sigismund and the Pope. The statue is to commemorate the Council of Konstanz in 1414 AD, where the highest church and state officials gathered – as well as innumerable ladies of the night seeking elite clients.

By Han Mamman

Many tourists travelling in Germany head for big cities like Berlin, Munich or Frankfurt. However, if you like to relax and enjoy beautiful, natural scenery, then the small border city Konstanz is the place to be.

Not only is the city's picturesque landscape quintessentially German, but it has a most relaxing atmosphere. Unwind from the daily grind. When I first visited the town, the slower pace of life was immediately noticeable. People chatted with each other in the sunshine, ice cream in hand.

Summer on Bodensee

Bodensee is an important part of local life, especially in summer. It's hard to get a seat in any of the restaurants and cafes by the lake, even during off hours.

The summer's mild climate and plentiful sunshine makes Bodensee a top vacation spot for lovers of sun and sand, as well as sightseers and spa-goers. The hillsides sloping down to the water's edge are covered with vineyards and orchards, and are dotted with colorful hamlets and tourist centers. Cruise ships and ferries link every major center around the lake.

The lake offers a wealth of activities, including swimming, sailing, windsurfing, diving and rowing. You can swim in the cold lake water, or in one of the heated pools on its banks.

Sailing the Bodensee is a major attraction. Some boatyards and sailing schools rent boats – you'll be required to show some proof of proficiency like a certificate issued by a sailing school. Rowboats and motorboats are available for rent at all major hotels along the lake.

Take an easy stroll

Spend at least two days strolling the streets of the town to take in the wealth of history and appreciate its fabulous centuries-old well-kept buildings.

Konstanz is a cycling-oriented town. Most major roads have bicycle lanes or divided pavement. Outside town lie uncountable miles of gravel tracks through endless forests. It's very easy to get lost without a map and a good sense of direction. Bikers should be reasonably fit, as the hills can seriously punish one's legs.

Take a bus to Bismarcksteig and walk uphill to Bismarcksturm, the tower at the top of the hill that can be seen from town. It is a favored spot by romantics to sit and watch the sunset. The hill offers a spectacular view of the vineyards and the lake.

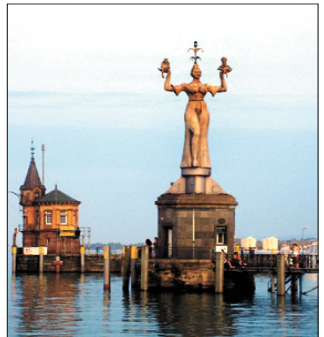
Many people in Konstanz walk to Switzerland every day. A friend told me that the first time he walked across the border, he showed his passport. But from then on, he never bothered. If he goes a few days without visiting, the guard even greets him to say, "It's been a while since you walked into our country."

Tourist highlights

Konstanz is the ideal base for excursions to celebrated towns around the lake shore. Spend a day to see Meersburg and Mainau Island by taking one of the regular ferries.

Only a 30-minute ferry ride from the town, Meersburg is a small, historical castle town now mostly a tourist trap. It is apparently the oldest standing castle in Europe. Ropes and signs carefully guide visitors on a set path through the rooms, some of which are decorated in styles dating back to 1200.

The flower island of Mainau was worth seeing. It is renowned, not only for its subtropical orchards and profusion of flowers, but also its splendid Baroque castle, owned by Sweden's Count Lennart Bernadotte.



Statue of a woman near the lake



Meersburg and Bodensee



The small town

Getting to Konstanz

By plane

The international airports closest to Konstanz are Zurich, about one hour away, and Stuttgart, about three and a half hours away. From Frankfurt, the travel time is four to five hours.

By train

Konstanz can be reached by train from any direction. There is a bus stop right in front of central station. Bus numbers 9A and 9B depart every 15 minutes and stop directly at the main entrance of the Konstanz University.



Dawn breaks on the Bodensee

Photos by Li Xinjian



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 - 2007.9.09 明星嘉年华 (郭蓉、纪敏佳、飘乐队)
 - 2007.9.15 Kappa日、青岛啤酒日
 - 2007.9.16 主题音乐会 (尚雯婕专场)、青岛啤酒日
 - 2007.9.20 主题音乐会·东乐家族 (苏丹、张石荻、未来脚踏车)
 - 2007.9.21 主题音乐会 (大学生音乐节前10强选手专场)
 - 2007.9.22 主题音乐会 (斯琴格日乐专场)
 - 2007.9.23 Kappa网球拉拉秀总决赛、中网活力新星总决赛
- 以上活动于中央球场下午比赛结束开始, 18:30结束



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Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Lucky dog or lucky star?



By Gan Tian

When I was told I won tickets to the Olympics, my friend Roy became very jealous. "Oh, you lucky dog! If you don't go, can I have the tickets?" he said.

Hearing the word "dog" I became a little angry. "What? Are you insulting me?" I asked. Roy got confused, "No, I didn't. I just said you were very lucky!" "But you called me a dog!" I barked back at him.

"Oh, I just said you were a lucky dog," explained Roy, laughing, "We refer to someone as a 'lucky dog' when they have good fortune. It's just a common expression, not an insult," he said.

"You guys are really strange. You know in Chinese, calling someone a dog is really bad. It's humiliating and degrading for the recipient of your words. When we want to say someone is lucky, we always use the word 'lucky star,' 'xingyunxing', or 'xingyun'er' in Chinese," I explained, "For me, it's like you changed me from a star to a dog!"

You can see now why I got so angry!"

"Oh, we also say lucky star in English. It, too, is slang for a person who is lucky. Compared with lucky dog, lucky star is much more formal. For me, if my friend called me a lucky star, I wouldn't feel that he was as close to me as when he called me a lucky dog. That would be someone who knew me very well."

It reminded me of some song lyrics, "You are my lucky star, because you shine on me wherever you are! I just think of you and I start to glow, and I need your light, and baby you know!"

If you called me a "lucky dog," the lyrics might be "You are my lucky dog, because you bite me wherever you are! I just think of you and I start to howl, and I need your bite, and baby you know!"

Yes! I am a lucky dog! And by the way, you can find the full meaning of "lucky dog" by using one of the best Chinese search engines, dict.baidu.com, but you won't find the term "lucky star" there.



CFP Photos

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

Contaminated sharps

By Derrick Sobodash

Last week, this writer had an atrocious case of dysentery. As his fever escalated to 41 degrees, he began to see bats flying around the room and lightbulbs full of maggots.

But in between the hallucinations and delirious ramblings about how he would beat the next badger who steals his *shaobing*, he still managed to spot Chinglish in Beijing Hospital.

Pray tell, what precisely is a "contaminated sharp"? Sharp is an adjective, not a noun. If you were to tack on an "i" and an "e," you would get "Sharpie," the brand name for those wonderful pens that allow you to label and organize CDs of pirated music. Of course, how a Sharpie becomes contaminated is an image so nasty is a question better answered by readers' imaginations and the Internet.

Likely, since this was the disposal bin for used intravenous hookups, they meant obviously to write "**needles**." Sure, the Chinese just says "sharp objects," but what else would be sharp besides a needle? Nouns are critical, and English does not allow an adjective to modify an adjective, unless somewhere along the line one is modifying a noun.

Right below it, the box offers other sage advice: "Do not be upside down." That's a good idea. Whenever this writer is upside down, all the blood rushes to his head, and he quickly returns to being right side up.

More likely, they meant to write, "**Do not turn upside down**." An action verb rather than a state of being is a little more useful, specific and natural in this case.

Thankfully, none of the mistranslations on this box were severe enough to encourage injury. Of course, they were only a few letters away from "Contains Sharpies!" Reach in and pull out a prize!

This writer is partial to red ones.

Local Professor: Shida Zhu

1. Website members world over

This adverbial phrase needs a definite article, that article being, "the." It should be "Website members the world over." You may also say "all over the world."

2. Thieves are so commonly seen, many citizens stand out.

The English phrase is "so ... that." If you want to emphasize something, you use this phrase. However, the adverbial clause of consequence has to be led by "that." So, this sentence should read: "The thieves are so commonly seen that many citizens stand out."

3. In the Central Africa

As you never have the definite article before "Africa," in this case, it does not even matter if you have a modifier before it. So, this should be: in Central Africa. It is the same as "in Central China." You never say "in the Central China." However, if you say "in the central part of Africa," it is all right.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Website members world over

This common adverbial phrase is "article-challenged," so to speak. The article, "the" is indeed small but, oh so powerful, so insert it here to create the magic of correct English. The phrase should read, "Website members the world over." Or, another option might be, "all over the world."

2. Thieves are so commonly seen, many citizens stand out

In this phrase, when the first part begins with "so," the second half of the phrase needs to be introduced by the word "that," and read as follows, "Thieves are so commonly seen that many citizens stand out."

3. In the Central Africa

Using the article "the" before Central Africa would even anger the elephants! You never use the definite article before the name, Africa, even if it is preceded by a modifier such as "Central." To compare, you would never say, "in the Central China." That would make the pandas blush! Of course, it's in Central China. In this case, drop the "the"! Now, that's confusing!



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Exhibition

Grand Exhibition of Hoo Mojong



Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Daily 9am-4pm, until September 27

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6401 2252, 8422 1726

Cao Xifeng Solo Exhibition

Where: XYZ Gallery, 2 Jiux-

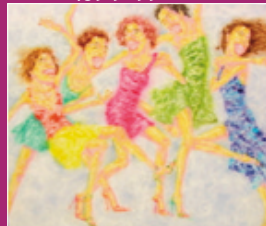
ianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30am-

6:30pm, until October 2

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9299



The Spawn of Ruins: Miguel Payano's Solo Exhibition

Where: Red T Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until October 1

Admission: Free

Tel: 8911 5762

Movie

So Much Rice

(Hao Duo Dami)

Literary lion Li Hongqi



tries his hand at filmmaking and turns a sad joke into an award-winning film of social absurdity. It springs from one of his poems: the ballad of a certain Mao Liang who, while playing hide-and-seek with his girlfriend, slips out of

the house and never returns.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 139 0113 4745

Saturday, September 22

Exhibition

One Shot / Beijing: By Alexander Berg



Where: The Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-7pm, until October 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9263

Tong Yan Ru Nan Solo Oil Painting Exhibition

Where: TRA Gallery, Plant-Art International Art Garden

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2054

One moonlit night: Lunar 08.15 - Denise Keele-Bedford Solo Exhibition

Denise Keele-Bedford's artwork is a series of installations delivering a commentary on social and cultural behavior in conjunction with the Moon Festival. The project of research and production has been a two-year process incorporating work from both China and Australia.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Feijiacun Yishu Gongzuoshi, Feijiacun, Laiguangying Dong



C2006, Beihuqu, Anwai Beiyuan, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until October 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3883

1979-1989: Chinese Opera Calendar Photography



Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Center, 155 East End Art, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm,

until October 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663

Outdoor

Yellow Mountain & Ancient Anhui Villages

Where: Huangshan, with its 72 peaks, is considered one of the most unique and beautiful mountain ranges in the world and it is the only mountain listed in China's Top Ten Scenic Spots. The traditional villages of Hongcun and Xidi preserve, to a remarkable extent, the appearance of non-urban settlements of a type that largely disappeared or were transformed during the last century.

When: Fly to Huangshan City at 6:50pm on September 21 and with a return flight to Beijing on September 23.

Cost: 5,150 yuan

(4-star hotel)

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Sunday, September 23

Exhibition

Italian experimental photographer and film-maker Paolo Gioli Solo Exhibition

The exhibition consists of a selection of approximately 30 works on Polaroid 50x60 cm (ranging from the early 80s to today) and a selection of his experimental films that were presented at the latest edition of the HKIFF where Gioli was artist on focus in the Avant-Garde section.

Where: OffiCina, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-7pm, until November 11

Admission: Free

Tel: 6436 1191

Trace of the Time: Yang Maoyuan Solo Exhibition



Where: White Space Beijing, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun noon-6pm, until November 18

Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30am-5:30pm, until November 14

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

Outdoor

Moon Festival Celebration On Water



Chinese Moon Festival 2007 will fall on September 25. The Chinese Culture Club will celebrate this traditional festival by organizing

a concert aboard a boat.

An evening of music and romance hosted by world-famous musicians, who will serenade you playing traditional Chinese instruments and you will thrill to the vocal talents of accomplished prestigious folk singers.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, 29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) at 7pm and return at 10:30pm.

Cost: 250 yuan (includes boat fare, bus transportation, moon cakes and drinks)

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in October

Dance

Light

Who: National Ballet of China
Where: Tianqiao Theater, 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu, Chongwen
When: 7:30pm, October 1-4
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Concert

Love of Angel - Ali Wood Romantic Piano Concert

Who: Ali Wood
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 1
Admission: 180-880 yuan

Bowfire's Virtuoso Violin Music

Who: Canada-based Bowfire demonstrates what the violin and fiddle can do in the hands of masters. Bowfire encompasses styles as diverse as classical, jazz, country, rock, old-time, Texas-style, bluegrass, gypsy, eclectic, Celtic and electric.

Where: Ethnic Culture Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

Admission: 80-880 yuan

The Phantom of the Opera

Who: China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 3
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg

Who: Edo de Waart and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 4

Admission: 100-880 yuan

Russian Romances by Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky

Who: Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 17
Admission: 100-880 yuan

The Nigel Kennedy Quintet - Blue Note Sessions

Who: Nigel Kennedy
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 18
Admission: 180-980 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: Gil Shaham, Shuilan and Singapore Symphony Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 23
Admission: 60-680 yuan

The 10th Beijing Music Festival Closing Gala Concert

Who: Lang Lang (Piano), Christoph Eschenbach (Conductor) and Orchestre de Paris
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 26
Admission: 180-980 yuan

Opera

China Premiere of Poet Li Bai Opera

Who: Composed by Guo Wenjing
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 9
Admission: 100-880 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)